

2006 POETRY
CABERNET SAUVIGNON, STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

These Cabernet Sauvignons, made from only the best fruit from select vineyards, are quintessential representatives of some of Napa's most renowned appellations. They are produced in limited quantities, and only in years when the quality of the fruit and resulting wine are exceptional. Sourced from the steep hillside terraces of our own Poetry Vineyard, this wine delivers all of the elegance and concentration for which the Stags Leap District is famous.

Vintage

Weather patterns during the 2006 growing season shifted abruptly, as if on command, to meet the needs of the developing fruit. Cool and wet conditions throughout April resulted in a late budbreak, about three weeks later than average. The swift transition to warm, dry weather in May was instrumental in quick bloom and fruit set, with strong growth and great set throughout. Just at the onset of *veraison* summer's heat intensified, resulting in many straight days of triple digits. The hottest July on record gave way to below-average temperatures in August and September, allowing even ripening and long hang times. Overall, the combination of perfect fruit set and ideal ripening has produced very concentrated wines that will mark 2006 as one of the great Napa vintages

Vineyard

The Poetry Vineyard is the eastern most of our two estate Stags Leap District vineyards, located just a stone's throw from the winery and the Twin Peaks estate vineyard. The vineyard sits on a steep west-facing high-exposure hillside below the luxurious Poetry Inn. Reaching from the highest elevation of the Stags Leap District Appellation down almost to the valley floor, this vineyard's heart and soul are a gritty combination of shallow soils atop fractured shales and low-yielding old vines of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Winemaking

Grapes were picked in the darkness of the early morning hours, and immediately subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered sorting and refinement process. The berries were gently delivered to tank by our unique crane system, minimizing disruption of berry integrity. Cold soaks lasted approximately five days and fermentations were managed via a combination of *delestage* and pumpovers. Extended maceration of two and a half to five weeks fine-tuned our tannin profiles, and allowed us to perfect mouth feel and wine complexity. The components that make up this wine underwent eighteen months of *elevage* in eighty-five percent new French oak and fifteen percent neutral French oak.

Tasting Notes

The 2006 Poetry continues the tradition of extraordinary complexity and richness entwined with deep aromatic intensity. Enticing aromas of dark chocolate ganache, black fig, mulberry and blood orange unfold into suggestions of crushed rose petals and white chocolate. The impressive bouquet persists upon entry, where it dances seamlessly with flavors of cranberry, black cherry, persimmon and a wisp of datura flower. This stoic yet gentle wine has velvety tannins with balanced acidity and a lasting finish. Such elegance makes this Poetry a most unusual and delightful creation.

Analysis

Composition: 96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot
Alcohol: 15.2%
Bottling Date: June 2008
Release Date: November 2009
Production: 969 cases