DUCKHORN
VINEYARDS
NAPA VALLEY

2008 Estate Grown Napa Valley Merlot
Stout Vineyard

Stout Vineyard is located in the Howell Mountain appellation, one of the Napa Valley's most sought-after, ultra-premium winegrowing regions. As a result of its topography, soils and climate, Howell Mountain has distinctly different grape-growing conditions than the valley floor. This 35-acre vineyard is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, Petit Verdot, Grenache and Syrah. The Stout Vineyard also has 300 mature olive trees that were planted at the turn of the 19th century.

2008 Harvest Notes

Though the 2008 growing season presented certain challenges—from early frosts to drought conditions—a meticulous approach to viticulture and sorting yielded small crops with good concentration, highlighting soft, appealing tannins for our red varietals and bright acidity for our white grapes. A long, moderately cool summer led to a harvest that commenced in mid-August and concluded in early November. This relatively relaxed pace allowed us to pick in numerous passes to ensure quality, often focusing on individual rows or a single side of the vines.

Comments from the Winemaker

The aromas are both bright and sophisticated, bringing together layers of cherry, cranberry and rhubarb, with enticing barrel spice notes of ginger, cinnamon, molasses and caramelized sugar. As with all of our Merlots, this is a wine of depth and structure, pairing lovely flavors of briary plum, blackberry, dark raspberry and cola with powerful, yet fully integrated tannins that bode well for long aging.

Varietal Content
100% Merlot

Harvest Information
Appellation: Napa Valley – Howell Mountain
Harvest Dates: September 19 – October 11, 2008
Average Sugar at Harvest: 28.8° Brix
1 Estate Vineyard - Stout Vineyard

Cooperage
100% French Oak, Chateau-Style Barrels (60 gallons)
Barrel Aging: 18 Months
Age of Barrels: 100% New

Production/Technical Data
Alcohol: 14.5%
Titratable Acidity: 0.68 g/100ml
pH: 3.43

Bottled: July 2010
Released: September 2011