

DUCKHORN

VINEYARDS

NAPA VALLEY



## 2009 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.

### 2009 Harvest Notes

From our first Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc blocks to our final red-varietal Estate picks, our 2009 harvest spanned more than two months. Though the 2009 growing season presented certain challenges—from early shatter to late-season rain—a thoughtful response in the vineyards yielded smaller-than-normal crops of high-quality fruit. This response included aggressive leafing, an early thinning protocol and a heavy field sort to select only the most desirable grapes.

### Comments from the Winemaker

As with all of our Merlots, this is a wine of depth and structure—a fact that is only enhanced by the Howell Mountain location of Stout Vineyard. Abundant layers of black cherry, raspberry and cranberry are underscored by notes of leather and oak-inspired spice that add nuance and complexity. Though powerful, the tannins are showing a youthful austerity that bodes well for long aging.

### Varietal Content

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

### Harvest Information

Appellation: Napa Valley – Howell Mountain  
Harvest Dates: September 10 – October 27, 2009  
Average Sugar at Harvest: 27.1° 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: 0.58 g/100ml  
pH: 3.57

Bottled: July 2011  
Released: September 2012