

# *The Discussion*

## **2009 The Discussion Estate Grown Napa Valley Red Wine**

Over three decades ago, before crafting their first vintage, the Duckhorns and their winemaker had a passionate discussion at the kitchen table. Though they debated making a cuvée, they chose to focus on varietal wines. Even so, Duckhorn Vineyards has always remained fascinated by the artful blend of varietals from diverse Napa Valley vineyards. Embodying the depth and complexity of a world-class Estate program, The Discussion represents the pinnacle of the Duckhorn Vineyards portfolio and the ongoing dialogue that defines great winemaking.

### **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.

### **Winemaker Notes**

The Discussion was blended using the very best barrels of wine from the finest blocks of our estate vineyards. While this wine is abundantly rich and flavorful, it is defined by its refinement and complexity. Aromas of mulberry, plum, leather, cassis and cocoa offer a beautiful prelude to a rich, velvety mouthfeel with fine-grained tannins. These tannins provide lovely structure, and underscore the layered sophistication of the blackberry, cherry, rose petal and red currant flavors. Elegantly integrated oak adds hints of clove, pencil shaving and roasted chestnuts, while providing length and dimension.

### **Varietal Composition**

71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

### **Harvest Information**

Appellation: Napa Valley

Sub-appellations: Yountville, St. Helena, Howell Mountain

Harvest Dates: September 4—October 29, 2009

Average Sugar at Harvest: 26.5° Brix

100% Estate Vineyards

Five vineyards harvested -Monitor Ledge, Patzimaro, Stout, Rector Creek and Candlestick Vineyards

### **Cooperage**

100% French oak château-style barrels (60 gallons)

26 months in barrel

Age of Barrels: 100% new

### **Production/Technical Data**

Alcohol: 14.5%

.58 g/100 ml titratable acidity

10-12 days fermentation at 80°F

pH: 3.66

Bottled: March 2012

Released: April 2013