

2006 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.

2006 Harvest Notes

The 2006 growing season was marked by a very mild summer with a mid-July heat spike that accelerated ripening. Mild temperatures continued throughout the fall allowing for a moderately paced harvest. The long growing season brought complex and intense flavor and aroma development.

Comments from the Winemaker

The product of a stunning Merlot vintage, this wine personifies what Stout Vineyard is known for—intensity and extraction. At this youthful stage, the aromas are tightly wound, but as the wine opens up it exhibits complex notes of cedar, cranberry, red licorice, cardamom and wild herbs. The cranberry flavors are echoed on the palate, alongside robust elements of Bing cherry, blackberry, currant, spicy plum and milk chocolate. These flavors are accentuated by balanced natural acidity and framed by ample, ripe, mountain tannins, producing a Merlot with exceptional aging potential.

Varietal Content

94% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon

Harvest Information

Appellation: Napa Valley – Howell Mountain
Harvest Dates: September 14 – October 31, 2006
Average Sugar at Harvest: 26.8° 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: 0.65 g/100ml
pH: 3.45

Bottled: July 2008
Released: October 2009