

#### Vineyards & Winery Napa Valley



**Appellation:** Napa Valley

**Blend:** 66% Cabernet Sauvignon

23% Merlot

2% Petit Verdot

8% Cabernet Franc

1% Malbec

**pH:** 3.65

**Total Acidity:** 6.5 g/L

Residual Sugar: <0.02%

Wine Alcohol: 14.3%

# 2004 ÉLU Napa Valley Red Wine

#### Winemaker's Notes:

Elegant and stylish with pure, rich vibrant focused sweet cherry and blackberry fruit that is supple and polished. The aromas capture the ripe berry fruit with just a touch of toasty oak, finishing with fine grain tannins that linger.

### Growing Season:

The 2004 growing season started out early and warm with many days in March reaching 85F. The warm weather continued throughout the spring leading to bloom occurring three weeks ahead of schedule. We thinned the crop more than usual during June and July and opened the canopy to expose the fruit to sunlight, which helps intensify color and flavor of the grapes. At harvest time, we found the fruit quality was exceptional with yields about 50% of average.

The fruit for this Élu was harvested during the cool hours of early morning to maximize fresh flavors. Crush occurred in our cellar prior to fermentation and maceration on the skins, after which the wines were drained pressed to barrels for maturation.

## Winemaking:

This wine was aged in 52% French oak and 48% American oak barrels.

#### Tradition and Innovation. Skalli Family Wines since 1920.