

2009 Dollarhide Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley



Winemaker's Notes:

This single vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon has deep, dark and intense hues of red and purple. Rich ripe aromas of black currant and molasses intermingle with a smoky quality from the wine's barrel maturation, attractive toasted vanillin oak and a brandied note of fine dusty terroir. Rich yet refined flavors of black currant and dark plum are complemented by sweet notes of toffee and anise, while subtle but attractive vanillin oak shines in the background. This is a big, structured wine that is fine in type and style.

Growing Season:

After several dry seasons, January 2009 started in similar fashion. February brought a few storms, but the remainder of the year was short on rain. This was good for vineyard flavors and also served to moderate the yields. After pleasant conditions in the spring, June brought average temperatures while July really turned up the heat for two weeks which was followed by some hot days in August. All of this led to wines with good structure and intensity.

Winemaking:

The fruit was harvested in the cool morning hours, then crushed to tank where fermentation commenced after a brief period of resting on skins. Warm fermentation temperatures were encouraged to achieve the desired color and structure for the wine before an extended maceration time on skins prior to final pressing. The wine was transferred directly to barrel for 28 months of maturation.

Dollarhide Estate Vineyard:

St. Supéry's Dollarhide Estate Vineyard is planted with close to 500 acres of grape vines, leaving the more than 1,000 remaining acres to thrive in their natural state. Vineyard elevations ranging from 600 to 1,100 feet above sea level, 7 different soil series, 13 different soil variations and a unique microclimate combine at Dollarhide to create an especially accommodating growing environment. Napa Valley's warm days and cool nights are slightly exaggerated at Dollarhide because of its elevation and its distance from the cooling effects of San Pablo Bay. This climate yields ripe, luscious, well-balanced grapes that produce well-balanced food wines.

Appellation	Napa Valley
Vineyard	Dollarhide Estate Vineyard
Variety/Blend	98% Cabernet Sauvignon 2% Merlot
Oak Maturation	100% French oak (83% new oak), 28 months
pH	3.95
T. Acidity	5.7 g/L
Residual Sugar	Dry, <0.2%
Alcohol	14.7%
Harvest Dates	October 14 – November 1, 2009
Bottling Date	May 3, 2012
Case Production	935 cases