

Larkmead

VINEYARDS

VINTNER & GROWER



ESTABLISHED 1895

2008 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WINEMAKER NOTES:

Deep ruby red-purple color. Striking aromatic profile: currant, cedar, earth, slate and cassis dominate with an edge of menthol and dried herb. As the wine opens floral and lead pencil notes emerge. The palate is immediately dynamic and penetrating with an energy that is unmistakably Larkmead. Pure blackcurrant and graphite minerality lead the way with notes of plum, cocoa and sweet mint. A creamy mid-palate is offset by youthfully intense tannins that absorb the wine's viscosity and provide great thrust and focus to its finish. Lovely fresh acidity intensifies the gravelly-stony aftertaste. Decant for an hour in its first couple of years and drink between release and 2020.

Just as 2007 was a vintage in which it was hard to make wines that were anything less than memorable; so 2008 was one where obvious quality had to be earned. Fortunately our world class Estate vineyard performed with its usual self-assuredness. Low yields brought a sense of natural power and density to the wine, but our decision to harvest on the early side, has given this wine great authority of flavor along with a freshness and suppleness that are irresistible.

This is unequivocally a wine of both origin and originality with a real sense of vineyard personality, class and style. It combines textural viscosity with structural tautness and an element of power held in reserve that will allow it to gradually unfold with 10 to 12 years in the cellar. As a single Estate wine it is about as far removed from generic, modern super-ripe Napa Cabernet as it's possible to imagine and tips its hat toward Bordeaux with its dominant gravelly, cedary character and predominant elegance. It impresses with its pure vineyard expression rather than extravagant fruit sweetness or fundamental size and as such is reminiscent of classic Napa Cabernet from the 1970s and 80s. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

- ANDY SMITH, WINEMAKER

The 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate reveals a Medoc-like nose of cedarwood, damp earth, black currants and hints of bay leaf and unsmoked cigar tobacco. Opulence, purity and density combined with a thick, full-bodied mouthfeel and a superb finish all suggest a wine that can be drunk now or cellared for two decades.

- 95 POINTS, ROBERT PARKER, *THE WINE ADVOCATE*, ISSUE 192, 12-23-10



PRODUCTION:
3,084 Cases

FRUIT:
100% Estate grown fruit, produced and bottled at
Larkmead Vineyards

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:
89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc
& 5% Petit Verdot

AGING:
Aged for 18 months in 59% new medium toast
French oak barrels

COOPERAGES:
Tonnelleries Ermitage, Demptos & Sylvain

