

2008 Dark Horse Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Creek Valley "Scharf Family Vineyard"



Vineyards

The Scharf family Vineyard is a small, hillside vineyard located on the southern slope of Dry Creek valley. Planted in 1986, the bud wood was acquired from a vineyard in the Diamond Mt. district of Napa. This combination of site and vine stock has been producing exceptional wines for over 20 years. Naturally low yields in association with small clusters yields a wine with intense varietal character.

Winemaking

The grapes were harvested on September 19th at 25.2 brix. Minimally crushed, a large percentage of whole berries in the fermentation added a greater depth of fruit expression while minimizing the effects of drying tannins. Extended maceration further magnified the velvety texture and smooth mouth feel. Aging in 50% new American oak, with a small amount of French for the subtle effects it brings, for 30 months has produced a wine rich and intense. Enjoyable now, it will deliver smiles for years to come.

Tasting Notes

While this wine wanted to bust out of the stalls like a bull named "Dynamite", we reined it in and made it civilized, no rodeo clowns need apply. Deep, rich aromas of black cherry and cassis are first out of the chute. What comes next are cascading fruit flavors reminiscent of plum, dark fruits enveloped by the perfume of new oak. Try and put a glass of this down and it will stick to your hand like cotton candy.

Technical Analysis

Appellation: Dry Creek Valley

Varietal Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Harvest Date: September 19, 2008