



GUNDLACH BUNDSCHU

EST. 1858

2006 MOUNTAIN CUVÉE, ESTATE VINEYARD SONOMA VALLEY



VARIETAL COMPOSITION:
70% Merlot
29% Cabernet Sauvignon
1% Petit Verdot

BOTTLED:
August 2008

CASE PACK:
12/750ml

CASE PRODUCTION:
6,327

ALCOHOL:
14.7%

TA:
0.62g/100ml

pH:
3.64

RHINEFARM ESTATE VINEYARD

Steep hillside blocks with rocky, shallow soils of rhyolitic volcanic ash and alluvial wash are planted predominantly to Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, with a small block of Petit Verdot. Pervasive maritime breezes and long daylight exposure allow for slow, even ripening, resulting in deep color, intense flavor concentration and elegant balance in the wines.

HARVEST NOTES

The 2006 growing season got off to a late, wet start on Rhinefarm, with budbreak beginning at the end of March and generous rainfall late into the spring. High soil moisture going into the growth period allowed the vines to develop large canopies that required vigilant taming to maintain ideal fruit-to-canopy ratios. A record-breaking heat wave in July helped put an end to vegetative growth and spurred the vines onto the business of ripening fruit. The harvest period was nearly perfect, and so in the end the fruit attained excellent phenolic maturity as well as nicely developed varietal characters.

WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand picked and delivered to the winery in the cool morning hours, then destemmed and conveyed into stainless-steel fermenters. Each block was fermented separately, with gentle, twice-daily pump-overs, pressed at dryness, and then racked into barrels. The wine was aged for 14 months in predominantly French oak; minimal use of American and Hungarian oak barrels added coconut and spice nuances. After blending, the finished wine was bottled unfiltered and lightly filtered.

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

Fragrant aromas of anise, coriander and warm cherry compote. Dense flavors of raspberry and red cherry laced with notes of orange pekoe and ultra dark chocolate lead to a long, chewy finish. A lush, fruit-forward wine intended to be enjoyed within five years of vintage.

Jeff Bundschu
Sixth Generation Vintner

