

ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS



CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SLD ESTATE STAGS LEAP DISTRICT, NAPA VALLEY, 2006



- Organic - CCOF Certified Vineyards
- Grown in RSV's SLD Estate Vineyard in the Stags Leap District of Napa Valley
- Cave Aged 20 months
- 45% New French Oak Barrels
- 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot
- Bottled in 750ml, 1.5L, 3L & 6L

WINE GROWING NOTES

Just shy of five acres, RSV's SLD Estate vineyard wraps around the winery in a horseshoe shape, rising up into the Vaca range in steep terraced steps. Minimal irrigation and rocky volcanic soils severely limit yields and prompt the vine to produce a small crop of very intense, yet balanced, fruit. Relatively cool weather prevailed in spring and almost the entire summer, but for a hot spell at the end of July and into the first week of August. The cool weather made for gentle development of sugars, extending the growing season, allowing for more time to develop flavors, all while preserving precious acidity. Harvest took place on September 28th, 2006. After completing fermentation in stainless steel, the wine rested in 45% new French oak barrels for 20 months. 4 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon and 1/2 acre of Merlot contributed to the blend. 35 barrels produced.

WINE TASTING NOTES

The wine seduces the eye, flaunting a translucent brilliant ruby color with more red-tones than usual for the SLD Estate Cab. Classic Cabernet Sauvignon aromas of black currant, blackberry, plum, olive and dried herb (anise, fennel, mint) prompt a sip that fills out the aromas and wraps the palate in silk. Fresh, vibrant acidity balances the rich flavors and, along with the wine's supple, ripe tannins, begs culinary suitors. While many New World Cabernet Sauvignons jump out of the glass and scream at you, this wine speaks softly, has a lot to say and keeps you listening... and it'll be talking for a long, long time.

FINE WINES. ORGANIC VINES.

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LPs in the Digital Age!

"Wow, these cabs remind me of the classic Napa cabs of the 70's. I love 'em!" exclaimed my friend as he reacted to a vertical tasting of our SLD cabs. This simple statement, while making my day, caught me off guard. Not just any old friend, this was a winemaker who's achieved considerable acclaim making wine in the "new" Napa style. Thus the quandary... Do we make classically elegant wines we love or wines that are more acceptable to the media and the marketplace? We chose love.

It is sad to think that many people don't know what a classic wine is supposed to be. I've been in a fortunate position lately to not only taste our wines of the past 25 years, but also many older wines of California, Australia and Europe. The ones that age successfully all have a common thread - an understated elegance, a quiet power that allows them to not just survive but to gain complexity over time. Rarely does an over-ripe wine improve with age. However, a young Cabernet with underlying green notes can often become more elegant with

age as those notes evolve into complex aromas of dried herb and chocolate - an elegant complement to understated fruit.

A classic wine needs to have a triad of basic qualities... a good core of fruit, bright acid to balance the fruit, and firm, yet fully ripe, tannin for structure. If any one tilts the equation in its favor, it lessens the chance the wine will improve with age.

While the Stags Leap District has the potential to produce elegantly structured and age-worthy Cabernet Sauvignon, many wines are either made in a too-ripe, early-drinking style or are consumed too young. At RSV we strive for that elegant, classic style that we love, even though it sometimes takes years for the wine to realize its potential. With this release, we did the aging for you with two of our Stags Leap District library wines. Now all you have to do for a classic, timeless evening is dust off the old LP's, dig out one of Maria's elegant recipes and pop some corks...

