



2003 Cabernet Sauvignon – Brigden Vineyard (Sonoma Valley)

The Brigden vineyard is situated in Sonoma County in the hills between Napa's Spring Mountain and the northern Sonoma Valley. It is high in the mountains and experiences cooler days and warmer nights than its valley neighbors, allowing the fruit to ripen evenly and slowly so the skins develop full flavors and soft, well-developed tannins.

On the morning of the harvest, September 28, the sky was clear and the air cool. The fruit was harvested by hand, sorted in the field and sorted again in the winery.

Fermentation was carried out in a manner designed to achieve maximum extraction of flavors, color and body with the right balance of tannins. After fermentation, the wine was barrel-aged in 100% premium French oak, with 40% new barrels, principally tight-grained oak from the Nevers and Bertrages forest.

This wine in many ways resembles an elegant Bordeaux blend than typical Napa/Sonoma Cabernets, even though it is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine is a great balance between the two counties, bringing forward the fruit and aromas of Sonoma Cabernets while offering the dark tones and structure of some of the more balanced Napa Cabernets. While the wine is enjoyable now, we think it will cellarwell for many years. To promote this long aging potential we have selected a heavy bottle and sealed it with an extremely long cork (54mm).

It won a **Gold Medal** at the **2006 San Francisco International Wine Competition**.

Only 340 cases were produced. The alcohol content is 14.3%.

It is available in 375ml, 750 ml and 1.5L bottles. In addition, we have some beautiful etched and painted 6liter bottles available with the 2002, 2003 and 2004 vintages. Therefore, it is possible to have a vertical collection of impressive size.

Joseph C. Otos, Winemaker