

TRUCHARD VINEYARDS



1996 Cabernet Sauvignon

- Vintage:** 1996 was a warmer vintage, which brought the fruit to ripeness more quickly than in previous years. Nevertheless, the early harvest resulted in a wine with complex aromas, rich flavors, and a powerful palate.
- Vineyard:** The Truchard Estate Vineyard is located in the Carneros region of the Napa Valley. It is 170 acres of hills and valleys, which contain a variety of soils: clay, shale, sandstone, limestone, volcanic ash and rock. The combination of terrain, geology, and marine-moderated temperatures, provides "micro-climates" well suited for wine-growing. Cabernet Sauvignon is planted in several different sites - on steep, southwest-facing hillsides. The vines range from 7 to 22 years old, and produce wines that are deep in color, dominated by lush flavors of plum, berry, and spice. Cabernet Franc, grown in the "Highlands" area of the vineyard, is blended in to provide additional softness, structure, and complexity.
- Harvest:** September 22 - October 8 • 24.4 °Brix • 3.54 pH • 6.2 g/l TA
- Winemaking:** All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed, then inoculated with Pasteur Red yeast. Fermentations were pumped-over twice daily, with the temperature peaking at 88° F. Maceration time varied from 14 to 30 days, depending on wine lot. The wine was aged for 20 months in French oak barrels (45% new). Rackings occurred every 4 months until bottling in August of 1998. The final blend is 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Cabernet Franc. This wine is approachable right now, but will soften and develop more complexity over the next 10 - 15 years.
- Wine Analysis:** 14.2 % alcohol • 3.59 pH • 5.7 g/l TA
- Tasting Notes:** Vibrant aromas of ripe cherry, floral blackberry, and plum; combined with hints of cedar, vanilla, and cracked black pepper. The palate is smooth and rich: layered with black cherries, red currants, and plum jam. Balanced acidity and fine-grained tannins allow these flavors to linger throughout the long spicy finish.
- Release date:** September 1, 1999
Cases Produced: 1644 cases
Bottle Price: \$32.00

3234 OLD SONOMA ROAD NAPA, CA 94559
TEL 707-253-7153 707-252-8864 FAX 707-253-7234