



## Lang & Reed 1999 Cabernet Franc – Napa Valley

Each year, with our focus on Cabernet Franc, we strive to do a little better than we did the year before. With this vintage, our fifth for this wine, we have honed in on the source of our grapes and fine-tuned our winemaking technique, producing a richly satisfying Cabernet Franc.

The majority of the grapes come from the Wood Ranch in the heart of Rutherford. Famed Napa Valley grape grower and water dowser, Laurie Wood, carefully tends to these vineyards. The balance of grapes emanates from the Stanton Vineyard in Oakville and was the basis of our very first vintage in 1993. The two vineyards complement each other in providing a full profile of flavors to the wine.

The 1999 harvest was a true in-between, not as early as we have experienced, nor as late. As Cabernet Franc, known as a mid-season ripener, was harvested during the third week of September. Good colors, fine ripening and great flavor were achieved.

To the eye this wine displays a bright, brilliant red hue with hints of the typical franc blue/violet edge. An intense perfume of berry fruit, floral scents and dried herb lift out of the glass. The package is made complete with a rush of sweet cherry flavors, light vanilla tones and a crisp cherry pit edge to the fruit. The wine finishes with a soft warm lengthy finish unburdened by heavy tannins.

### Description

This Premier Etage displays a dried flower and herb perfume mixed with top notes of berry fruit, vanilla and a touch of smoke. The flavors are a combination of the aromatic notes with a typical dark Swiss chocolate impression noted in previous vintages of the Premier Etage. The follow-through is intense as the combination of rich fruit, fine-grain tannin and 'good' wood provides the wine with ample structure and proportion. We always view the Premier Etage to be a 'Vin de Garde', or a wine to age, meaning that with proper cellaring the wine will display additional complexity and nuance.

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|----------------------|---|
| Varietal Composition | 100% Cabernet Franc                                   |
| Appellation          | 100% Napa Valley                                      |
| Vineyards            | Wood Ranch, Rutherford<br>Stanton Vineyards, Oakville |
| Alcohol Content      | 13.5% by Volume                                       |
| Total Acidity        | .56g/100mL  |
| pH                   | 3.66  |
| Cooperage            | French Oak Barrels                                    |
| Case Production      | 1,350 Cases (12 x 750mL)                              |
| Label Design         | Jeanee Greco, Caffe Greco Design, New York            |

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