



Lang & Reed 1998 'Premier Etage' Cabernet Franc– Napa Valley

The "Premier Etage" by its literal definition means the "first floor", or the level above the ground floor. Lang & Reed's interpretive definition means a level up, one that explores a deeper profile, a more complex expression of the Cabernet Franc grape.

The 1998 Lang & Reed Premier Etage is the third vintage release of this wine which is composed of 100% Napa Valley Cabernet Franc from three vineyards located in the heart of the Napa Valley. By utilizing fruit from three high quality and distinct sources we strive to build a wine with depth and complexity. Each of the three cuvees receives a fermentation regime that best suits the particular vineyard. All the grapes are de-stemmed but not crushed, allowing the whole berry fermentation to retain a high level of the unique Cabernet Franc aroma and fruit flavor. Various lengths of post fermentation maceration are employed before the wine is raked into French oak barrels for a gentle rest of 19 months.

Description

The 1998 harvest, for Lang & Reed, began a full forty-five days later than previous vintages and this wine seems to have reached a level of intensity and complexity that supports the premise of a long growing season producing more intense wines. The colors are dark, deep and saturated showing the typical hint of 'Franc' blue on the edge. The aromas are a heady mix of plum and cherry, mingling with hints of dried herb and dark chocolate. The palate carries a rich wash of dark cherries and plum, touched with chocolate and a creamy touch of vanilla. This intense fruit is gently wrapped in a robe of soft, yet substantial tannin helping to support the rich fruit and lengthening the finish.

Varietal Composition	100% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	100% Napa Valley
Vineyards	Fortuna Vineyard, Oakville Saviez Vineyard, Larkmead/Calistoga Madrona Vineyard, St. Helena
Alcohol Content	14.5% by Volume
Total Acidity	.51g/100mL
pH	3.8
Cooperage	French Oak Barrels – 19 Months
Case Production	620 Cases (12 x 750mL)
Bottling Date	June 20, 2000
Label Design	Jeanne Greco, Caffe Greco Design, New York

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