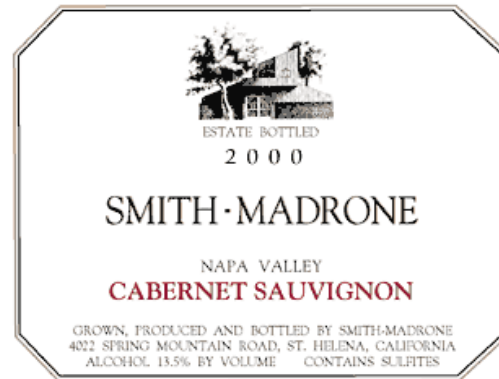


SMITH-MADRONE

NAPA VALLEY

Winemaker's Notes

2000 CABERNET SAUVIGNON



This is the first year that we have blended Merlot and Cabernet franc with our Cabernet Sauvignon. Since we are an estate-bottled winery and thus don't purchase grapes from other vineyards, it's taken us some time, from getting the permits, to planting the vineyards and waiting for those vineyards to mature. The Cabernet franc vineyard was planted in 1996 and the Merlot vineyard was grafted in 1997.

Our steep mountain vineyards are dry-farmed: this centuries-old tradition means there is no supplemental irrigation for the vineyard---only what nature provides as rainfall. We believe that dry-farming allows the vines to come into balance with nature by sending their roots deep into the volcanic mountain soil, allowing the vines to mature their fruit as nature intended. Although this means a smaller yield of grapes, we are confident that this insures the best quality grapes.

The 2000 Cabernet Sauvignon, dark red in color, is a wine of elegance and strength. Powerful and rich aromas of spice, nutmeg, oak and truffles, crushed lavender and black cherries. Sounds crazy? Try it and see! Chewy on the palate with a solid core of deep Cabernet fruit. Crisp tannins and acidity with a long, flavorful finish. Great with steak or savor it with a fine cheese in place of dessert. Drink anytime between now and 2025.

AGE OF VINES: 29 years
APPELLATION: Napa Valley
SUB-APPELLATION: Spring Mountain District
FARMING: dry-farmed mountain vineyards
VARIETAL CONTENT: Cabernet Sauvignon 90%, Merlot 8%,
Cabernet franc 2%
TIME IN OAK: 25 months in new American oak barrels
ALCOHOL BY VOLUME: 13.7%
FINING: unfining
FILTRATION: unfiltered
CASES: 1500 cases