

# WOLF FAMILY VINEYARDS

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*St. Helena / Napa Valley*

## 2001 Meritage, Napa Valley Estate Grown and Bottled

### Vineyards

The 2001 Wolf Family Vineyard Meritage is made from estate grown Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon from the Wolf Family vineyard located just south west of St. Helena against the foothills of the Mayacamas Mountains in Napa Valley. The one acre Cabernet Franc vineyard was planted in the mid '80's on sparse, rocky, volcanic soils, further up the slope of the Mayacamas. The vines produce very small, intensely flavored berries with low yields. The Cabernet Sauvignon was planted in 1996 to clones 337 and 7 on Schwarzman rootstock, on a 4' by 6' spacing. This five acre vineyard lies on a slightly sloping area of gravelly, clay loam soils. Because of the close spacing, the vineyard has low per acre yields due to the small berries and very loose clusters.

The 2001 vintage hit the mark. The rocky soils and consistently warm weather, early growth and a long season ripened this vintage completely. The warmer temperatures in St. Helena provide ideal conditions for bringing out the depth and complexity of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc grapes. The vines produced a moderate crop size (3-1/2 tons per acre) of small berries.

### Winemaking and Tasting Notes

The 2001 Wolf Family Vineyards Meritage was fermented with four different yeasts, finishing in about 15 days. Both the Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon were pressed when dry then aged 19 months in 60% new French oak barrels and 40% one and two year old French oak barrels.

The Wolf Family estate vineyards bring out the floral and jammy aromas, a luscious mouthfeel and the velvety and rich mid palate and finish in Cabernet Franc. This wine exhibits lovely aromas of strawberry and blueberry jam, a nicely weighted palate and a creamy texture in the middle body and finish.

The key to this wine is blending the right amount of Cabernet Sauvignon without allowing it to dominate the Cabernet Franc. Cabernet Sauvignon provides darker fruit like currants, black cherries, blackberries to the body of the wine. These complex flavors integrate well with the toasty new French oak barrels.

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<b>Statistics</b>	Wine	14.5% alcohol, 6.7 g/L total acidity, 3.79 pH
	Blend	82% Cabernet Franc; 18% Cabernet Sauvignon
	Bottling	142 cases were bottled in May 2003
	Release Date	April 2004
	Winemaker	Karen Culler
	Proprietors	Jane and Doug Wolf

