

WOLF FAMILY VINEYARDS

St. Helena / Napa Valley

PHAEDRUS

2003 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

Phaedrus was an important figure in Plato's philosophical dialogue. The name is also the Greek word for wolf, an animal known for mythical strength and longevity. We were inspired by the name's esteemed and powerful significance to call the newest addition to the Wolf Family Vineyards portfolio, Phaedrus.

Vineyard

The 2003 Phaedrus Cabernet Sauvignon was made from estate grown fruit from the Wolf Family vineyard located just south west of St. Helena against the foothills of the Mayacamas Mountains in Napa Valley. The 4.5 acre vineyard was planted in 1996 to Cabernet Sauvignon clones 337 and 7, on Schwarzman rootstock, narrowly spaced at 4' by 6'. This site is a slightly sloping area of well-drained, gravelly, clay loam soils. The vineyard yielded 3.3 tons per acre of very small berries in 2003.

Vintage

The 2003 vintage started out with warm temperatures but was soon followed by a mild spring and summer. The length of the growing season allowed for full development of the deep and complex flavors while the mild temperatures softened the tannins. Indian summer didn't arrive until October when it brought a perfect harvest, albeit a month later than in past years, on October 23.

Winemaking

The special lots that were selected for Phaedrus were produced in the same manner as Wolf Family Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. After hand-picking in the early morning hours, the clusters were hand sorted then destemmed. Four days of cold soaking, followed by fermentation for 17 days, the wine was pressed immediately at dryness. The wine was aged 19 months in 56% new French oak barrels and the balance in two and three year old French oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

Varietal aromas of blackberry, cassis and anise are followed by a lush palate, rounded texture and rich extract. These complex flavors integrate well with the toasty new French oak barrels and the deep berry aromas. Phaedrus 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon is ready to drink now and is age worthy for 7-10 years.

408 cases were bottled in May 2005 | 14.8% alcohol, 6.5 g/L total acidity, 3.75 pH
100% Cabernet Sauvignon, Wolf Family Vineyard
Release Date September 1, 2006 | Karen Culler, Winemaker
Jane and Doug Wolf, Proprietors