

WOLF FAMILY VINEYARDS

St. Helena / Napa Valley

PHAEDRUS

2004 Cabernet Franc, 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

Cabernet Franc comprises 75% of the blend of the 2004 Phaedrus and is grown in Chiles Valley within the Napa Valley appellation directly east of St Helena. The vineyard was planted in 2001 to Cabernet Franc clone 4 on 3309 rootstock. The vineyard is on a rolling and sometimes moderately steep slope on clay loam soils. Chiles Valley has a more continental climate than Napa Valley proper and thus the days are warmer. This is a great climate for Cabernet Franc, because "Franc" develops the best flavors and mature tannins when grown in a warmer area. This vineyard, although not owned by the Wolfs, is managed by their vineyard manager, Jim Barbour, who is known for his care of high quality vineyards.

Vintage

The 2004 vintage, considered remarkable for wine quality throughout northern California began early when the rains stopped in February. Throughout the season, the weather was warm and ideal. The warmer season meant an earlier than normal harvest date of September 17 for the Cabernet Sauvignon and September 24 for the Cabernet Franc.

Winemaking

After hand-picking in the early morning hours, the clusters were hand sorted and destemmed. Six days of cold soaking was followed by fermentation for 8 days after which the wine was pressed immediately at dryness. The wine was aged 20 months in 50% new French oak barrels and the balance in two year old French oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

This wine is a classic example of Cabernet Franc---blackberry fruit with notes of herbs and anise, velvety but thick texture with the elusive silky mid palate characteristic of a well-grown and well made wine. The soft tannins are delicious now and the bigger tannins of the Cabernet Sauvignon should age well for the next 5-10 years.

308 cases were bottled May 2006 | 75% Cabernet Franc, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, Estate
Released April 1, 2007 | Karen Culler, Winemaker
Jane and Doug Wolf, Proprietors