

WOLF FAMILY VINEYARDS

St. Helena / Napa Valley

PHAEDRUS

2005 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 2005 Phaedrus Cabernet Sauvignon was made exclusively 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 Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard was planted in 1996 to 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 Malbec and Petit Verdot were planted in 2000 near the Cabernet Franc vineyard in the westernmost part of the estate on a rocky bench. This is the first year that these varieties have been included in the blend. Each inhabits only a few vine rows and never exceeds more than a ton of grapes. We considered them to be a "spice" of sorts. Malbec is a larger juicy grape with black cherry and sometimes black pepper aromas. It contributes a colorful, juicy mid palate, without adding tannins to the finish. Petit Verdot has similar qualities and also adds extract to the finish.

Vintage

The 2005 vintage was the exact opposite of 2004—beginning with a very late, cool and wet spring followed by a cool summer and an "exciting", late harvest. Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Malbec were harvested by hand on October 12, a month later than 2004! The rainbow at the end of such a season was that the lengthy ripening period produced wine with stunning elegance, well balanced tannins and a velvety texture.

Winemaking

Phaedrus was conceived as a bottling that would capture the terroir of Wolf Family Vineyards in a rather accessible wine for an earlier release. 2005 Phaedrus is composed of 86% Estate Cabernet Sauvignon blended with Malbec and Petit Verdot from our "experimental" vineyard. Hand picked, gently crushed, pressed, fermented and aged in French oak barrels, Phaedrus is created in the same manner as our Estate wine.

Tasting Notes

The 2005 Phaedrus emanates blackberry and cassis aromas, rich dark berry flavors, and lush, velvety texture. Bottled and released earlier, this wine is well suited for immediate enjoyment however given its terroir and balance graceful aging is anticipated for 5 to 8 years.