

PHAEDRUS

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.

Vineyard

The 2006 Phaedrus 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 St. Helena. The younger vines on the property, the Malbec, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc were planted in 2000 near the old Cabernet Franc vineyard in the westernmost part of the estate on a rocky bench. Each varietal inhabits only a few vine rows and never exceeds more than a ton of grapes. Malbec is a larger juicy grape with black cherry and sometimes black pepper aromas. It contributes a colorful, mid palate, without adding tannins to the finish. Petit Verdot has similar qualities and also adds extract to the finish.

Vineyard

The 2006 vintage resembled the 2005 vintage with a cool, late spring followed by a temperate summer and early fall. October was beautiful with warm, sunny days and no rain. The grapes enjoyed a long hang time and spent the end of ripening with shorter day length producing full and mature tannins and a rich, full-bodied mouth feel. The 2006 vintage produced normal crop size yielding less than 3 tons to the acre.

Winemaking

Phaedrus was conceived as a bottling that would capture the terroir of Wolf Family Vineyards in an accessible wine for an earlier release. 2006 Phaedrus is composed of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon blended with 17% Malbec, 13% Cabernet Franc and 9% Petit Verdot. 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 2006 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.

575 cases bottled May 2008 | Estate grown: 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Malbec, 13% Cabernet Franc, 9% Petite Verdot | Released March 15, 2009 | Karen Culler, Winemaker
Jane and Doug Wolf, Proprietors