

FRANCISCAN



2005 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Napa Valley

Thirty vintages ago, Justin Meyer took over winemaking at Franciscan with a highly meticulous approach. He divided our Oakville estate into separate sections and made a collection of individual wines from them, each with a unique expression. He then blended the best lots together with extra care to create a wine with a distinct profile – rich, concentrated flavors yet soft, gentle tannins. On the back label he wrote, “This 1975 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon represents the style and character we wish to make synonymous with Franciscan.” And so our tradition of small lot winemaking began.

Over time we’ve added more vineyards, but our Oakville estate - still divided into the original vineyard blocks – continues to form the core of our Cabernet Sauvignon. Each vintage, we make up to over 200 separate lots of wine, then hone the blend during the year and a half of barrel aging, blind tasting trial blends repeatedly before selecting the final blend. Only the finest lots are included.

In 2005, the growing season began early, with an unusually warm March, followed by a cool and wet spring delaying bloom until June. The summer temperatures were steady and moderate, without any of the normal heat spikes of late summer. October was beautiful and mild, and Cabernet came in unhurried, with long, even hang-time, picking up through November 5.

- Janet Myers, Winemaker

APPEARANCE:	Deep ruby red
AROMA:	Cassis, ripe dark cherry and tobacco, with earthy notes of sage and peppercorn and sweet hints of vanilla.
FLAVORS:	Mouth-filling, well structured palate of deep blackberry, coffee and spice. Rich and vibrant with supple tannins, finishing with notes of cassis, chocolate, and toasted oak.
VARIETAL COMPOSITION:	87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot and Malbec
TIME ON SKINS:	27-30 days including 4-5 day pre-fermentation cold soak and 23-26 days in fermentation & maceration.
OAK AGING:	17 months in French and American oak, 35% new
LOTS IN BLEND:	Selected from over 140 separately crafted wine lots
ALCOHOL:	13.5%