

EMBLEM

N A P A V A L L E Y

OSO VINEYARD Cabernet Sauvignon 2006

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The grapes for our 2006 Emblem Oso Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon were harvested from our family's Oso Vineyard. Planted on slopes rising up from Schwartz Creek, it is nestled between Sugarloaf and Howell Mountains in Napa Valley, where the historic Oat Hill Mine Road begins its ascent over the mountain toward Calistoga. There, the vines grow on beautiful, stone-lined terraces, out of a rocky, porous soil. The high drainage stresses the vines, leading to high flavor concentration. The fruit remains fresh and vibrant throughout the growing season due to mild temperatures – warmer evenings and cooler days than on the valley floor – and afternoon breezes that blow straight down the vineyard rows. From the soil and elevation this mountain fruit extracts intense varietal characteristics, a firm structure, and excellent aging potential.

VINTAGE NOTES

Napa Valley's 2006 vintage was marked by an extended growing season, with moderating cool and hot temperature waves, which led to consistently high-quality, abundant crops. Although cool, wet weather in the Spring delayed bloom and set by a few weeks, the vines caught up to a "normal" development pace with a record-setting heat wave in mid-July. A classic Indian summer during the rest of the season allowed growers to maximize the maturity in the Cabernet Sauvignon grapes for complex, concentrated flavors without the extremely high sugars found during hot years. The moderate season also held acids high – ideal conditions that contribute to great balance in the wines. Our Oso Vineyard fruit was harvested between October 9 and October 23.

WINEMAKING

After the grapes were hand-harvested, de-stemmed and crushed, the fermenting juice went through a combination of gentle punchdown and cap submersion, and aerative pump-overs with rack and returns in order to keep tannins supple and approachable while maximizing the depth of fruit extraction. An extended maceration brought us to an average of 21 to 28 days before pressing. The wine was transferred into French oak barrels (45% new) for malolactic fermentation and 22 months of aging, followed by 6 months aging in bottle. Our 2006 Emblem Oso Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is beautifully balanced, with a supple, elegant texture and lush ripe fruit flavors of cherry and blackberry, and subtle oak nuances of chocolate, toffee, and toasted vanilla.

100% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6.5 g/l (0.65%) total acidity; 3.65 pH; 13.7% alcohol by volume

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Four generations of our family have helped bring Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon to the forefront of the fine wine world. The artistry and passion that continue to support this rich winemaking tradition have inspired us to create Emblem from Napa Valley's most exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon sub-appellations and vineyards. We hope you enjoy this rich, elegant taste of our past and future.

Michael Jordan

Bob Mondavi