

EMBLEM

NAPA VALLEY

OSO VINEYARD 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon

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The grapes for our Emblem 2010 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 at an elevation of 1,250 feet. 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 2010 growing season was dramatic, but resulted in excellent quality fruit with great flavor concentration. It began cool and wet, and by early summer winemakers knew harvest would be later than normal. The early vine development was slowed down by a cool summer and then sped up by bursts of heat throughout the valley. Vineyard management was vital in this vintage, and harvest was accomplished not by one picking, but by numerous to be sure that the grapes were properly ripened. This harvest had its share of unexpected challenges as most typically do, but the reduced crop resulted in vines yielding berries that showed great expression of their vineyards and rich, concentrated flavors.

WINEMAKING

After the grapes were hand-harvested, de-stemmed and crushed, the fermenting juice went through a combination of gentle punch-down 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 resulted in an average of 21 to 28 days before pressing. The wine was transferred into French oak barrels (77% new) for malolactic fermentation and 22 months of aging, followed by 6 months aging in bottle. Our 2010 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.

87% Cabernet Sauvignon & 13% Petit Verdot – 5.23 g/l total acidity; 3.99 pH; 14.4% alc. by vol.

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For four generations our family has crafted world-class wines in the Napa Valley. Emblem is the latest chapter in our family story, and we're excited to share these beautiful wines with you. Emblem wines are made at the Michael Mondavi Family Estate in Napa, California and they are a personal reflection of our past and future in the Napa Valley, expressing the unparalleled quality of the land's fruit and our family's rich winemaking heritage.

