



Far Niente

1985 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley

For once, most every winemaker, wine enthusiast and even wine writer agree on something: the outstanding quality of the 1985 wines. Why has 1985 been the most talked about Napa Valley vintage since 1974? While I can't say that the weather conditions were more favorable in 1974 or 1985, I know that advancements in vineyard management, varietal selection and winemaking technology have combined to raise 1985 to a new higher overall level.

Far Niente produces critically acclaimed, estate bottled Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon wines that are renowned for their consistent house style and ability to evolve with extended age.

While all varietals benefit from a great growing season, combined with several other factors, the 1985 Far Niente Cabernet is our most refined and elegant Cabernet to date. Changes in our vineyard, which is located on the Rutherford Bench, is but one of the factors. As the vineyard has matured, the older vines seem to give a greater variety and depth of flavors without any increase in aggressive tannins. These flavors have been further complemented by our decision to greatly increase our use of Cabernet Franc in a blend. While Merlot has been very popular as a blending component, our research is showing us that Cabernet Franc displays more depth and complexity in the resulting wines from our own vineyard. Such progress in the vineyard, coupled with advancements in the cellar ranging from maceration after fermentation through the egg white fining in the barrel, leaves us confident our research will continue to allow us to produce better wines.

Dirk Hampson
Director of Winemaking



The Napa Valley Wine Estate

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