



Tempranillo - Sonoma County

This is a 100% varietal wine, bottled all by itself because so many people are curious about what this variety is like. Tempranillo is one of the great varieties of Spain, and in Portugal it is called Tinta Roriz and is one of the key varieties in the great Ports. We grow it for our Port project, and have been making a very small amount of wine from it, "just to see." The result is a very dark and spicy wine, with a mysteriously distinctive aroma so typical of this variety. This block of grapes is about 2100' in Sonoma, just over the crest of Spring Mountain. (51 cases bottled, aged in American oak barrels, 60% new)

Cabernet Sauvignon - Spring Mountain District/Napa Valley

This is our "flagship wine" and is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot following the example of the great red wines from Bordeaux. We call it "Estate" because it is blended from many different vineyard blocks with different exposures and elevations ranging from 1500' to 2000'. Rich and fruity and deep, I think it is a wonderful example of what we are trying to achieve in the Spring Mountain District with a Cabernet blend. I would describe it as an elegant, rich, "mountain Cabernet." A blend from seven individual vineyard blocks.

Cabernet Franc - Spring Mountain District/Napa Valley

We decided to bottle a 100% Cabernet Franc because so many people wonder what this variety is all about and it seemed like a good idea to offer a pure example. We make a small amount of this variety every year to use in our "Estate" blend. In 2001 we had more than we needed for blending and I loved the wine and decided to bottle it alone. I am beginning to believe the opinion I have often heard in recent years, that Spring Mountain may be a perfect place to grow this variety. It does well here, setting a light but very even crop and coming into ripeness with textbook numbers every year. Cabernet Franc seems happy on Spring Mountain, and I am very happy with this wine, which has the distinctive and refined character which has long made it a favorite for blending with Cabernet Sauvignon. It's absolutely delightful in its youth, and will also benefit from a few years bottle ageing. This vintage we harvested this block twice, to achieve the ideal ripeness. This cabernet franc has wonderful structure, bright fruit, and lovely, spicy, oak aromas. An intensely elegant wine.

MXB® Zinfandel blend- Spring Mountain District/Napa Valley

Zinfandel, in a blend such as this, was once the pride of the California North Coast, and if I could make only one wine this would be it! "Mixed Blacks" was once the common term among growers for a block of vineyard with mixed varieties, Zinfandel and Petite Sirah and some of the following: Carignane, Alicante Bouchet, Grand Noir, Barbera, Grenache etc. In the 1960s we had several such blocks at York Creek. "MXB" is our own proprietary name for this style of wine. Big and black and yummy, everyone seems to love this blend. I think this is Zinfandel at its best, and it is definitely the style of wine that was once considered the very model of what a rich, mountain wine should be. I think this will last and last, but it will improve with age like big Zinfandels often do.





CUVÉE ONE - Spring Mountain District/Napa Valley

This is a lovely big red wine which we have created by blending various lots which were not needed in our other wine blends. We created it with "wine-by-the-glass" restaurant menus in mind, and it combines a lower price with high quality. You might say it is the wine you were hoping to find when you bought those big bottles of "Mountain Red" for a party. Don't let the low price or the lack of vintage and varietal fool you, this is a wonderful, rich red wine, perfect for hamburgers or other rich food. It is predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon, and it shows in the taste, but also contains several of our other varieties such as Merlot and even some of our Port grapes.

Petit Verdot - Spring Mountain District/Napa Valley

We grow this rather rare varietal for blending in our "Estate Cabernet." Petit Verdot is used in small quantities in many, perhaps most, great Bordeaux. Some years ago, when we planted a few acres at about 1800 on our Napa side, I told Ed Ewing, our vineyard manager: "When the winemakers find out we have 'mountain' Petit Verdot you will need a shotgun to keep them away." This is a variety which most people have heard of, but hardly anyone knows in its pure form. That is why we decided to bottle just a few cases of 100% Petit Verdot each year, so you can form your own knowledgeable answer to the common question "why do so many great Bordeaux have a tiny bit of Petit Verdot in the blend?" The first thing you will notice is the color, it is as black as the ace of spades. Then you will notice that it has a curious and subtle spiciness. Perfect for blending? You decide. Big and black and rich, our experience has shown that it ages very nicely.

Valdiguie' - Spring Mountain District/Napa Valley

In 2003, we produced only a half barrel of this lovely, fruity and rich wine, and we made it into wine because I have always thought the near disappearance of this variety is a sad loss, and I am hoping to increase the yield slightly in future years by replanting missing vines. Once considered a "standard" variety on the North Coast, in recent years it has almost disappeared. One reason may be that we can no longer call it by its charming old name, "Napa Gamay," on the label. Apparently this grape has proven to be what the French call Valdigué, and the familiar old California name had to go. Another reason for its near disappearance is probably that it is a variety that does best in the mountains. But that's where we are at York Creek, and I enjoy keeping the tradition alive. At its best - and that's what we have with this release - there is a mysterious and hearty fruitiness that almost reminds you of Pino t Noir. Drink this wine in the next year, while it's fresh and young.

