



2009 So Rare Cabernet Sauvignon

Technical Data

Varietal: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Vineyard: Bella Oaks

Appellation: Rutherford

Harvest Date: October 13, 2009

Production: 335 cases

Alcohol: 13.73

TA: 5.8 g/L

pH: 3.73

In 1984, we planted Cabernet Franc on a small 2-acre vineyard plot in the southern Rutherford Appellation off of Bella Oaks Road. It was the best Cabernet Franc we had ever tasted and, when phyloxera hit the vines and we had to pull them out, we replanted Merlot on the same site. Our premium Windfall Merlot came from this vineyard for years until we had a problem with nematodes. Once again, we had to rip out the existing vines and replant – so, since both Cabernet Franc and Merlot did extremely well in this soil and climate, we thought we would try to hit a trifecta of Bordeaux varietals by planting Cabernet Sauvignon. The result is our So Rare Cabernet Sauvignon – it has its own unique personality that is “so rare”.

Harvested just before the big rains of October 2009, the grapes for this vintage were 100% handpicked and sorted, and then transferred to a stainless fermentation tank where it underwent a “cold soak” for 4 days at 55F. This allows the wine to extract much of its color without the influence of alcohol, resulting in a deep, dark ruby color. This vintage was then aged for a period of 22 months in 75% new French oak barrels and 25% 1 year French oak. The 2009 So Rare Cabernet is has fresh black berry fruit and brambly oak notes on the nose, with full fruit characteristics of blackberry, cassis, chocolate and a hint of espresso on the palate. This wine’s big, bold and lush fruit characteristics are all attributed to the vineyard, once again proving its quality. Enjoy now or continue to cellar several more years.

