

# Marelle 2006 Napa Valley Syrah

## GRAPES

The vineyards are located in Coombsville (cooler places east of Napa Carneros); they are a stone's throw apart. The synergy of blending within the same grapegrowing neighborhood produces a wine that is more about place than most blends and is more complex than many single vineyard wines. **Cortese Vineyard** is the source of Marelle's intense black fruit and tannic structure. It is located in the hills above "the avenues". **Simpkins Vineyard** is an east facing, one acre slope located on the corner of North and Second Avenues. Its Alban selections of Syrah lend savage character, meaty notes and supple, voluptuous tannins. **Shearer Vineyard** is a west facing, steeply terraced vineyard located at the upper elevation of Coombsville. This low-yielding vineyard contributes deep purple color and pure, concentrated red fruit.

## VINIFICATION

Dawn-harvested clusters were partially destemmed to open top fermenters. Cold soak, punchdowns and fermentation ensued. Individual lots were membrane pressed (without rolling) a few days after dryness to two year old French oak barrels where they aged sur lies until blending.

## TECHNICAL DATA

Harvest dates	26 September -20 October 2006
Composition	100% Napa Valley Syrah 45% Simpkins Vineyard 30% Cortese Vineyard 25% Shearer Vineyard
Total acidity	6.2 g/L
pH at bottling	3.88
Alcohol	14.5
Residual sugar	< 0.5 g/L (< 0.05%) dry
Elevage	18 months in two year old French oak
Bottling date	21 April 2008

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Similar to the previous growing season, 2006 was a cool and late growing season. Slightly lower vineyard yields and an early summer ten-day heat spike helped the grapes get a bit riper in 2006 than 2005. The result? A supremely fruity and pleasing wine. I'll forego a long description of the wine's flavors and attributes because I don't want to disrupt the perception of its harmony, even with my own words. The growing season was superb for Syrah, the grapes were picked at the right time and the winemaking was a continuation of the development of character derived from the terroir. I didn't realize this would be the best Syrah I've ever made. It has under-promised and over-delivered. Please don't cellar this wine, rather enjoy it at your table tonight. There is nothing to wait for.

**Winemaker: Ashley Heisey**