

Davis Family Vineyards

2001 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

This is hands down the best Cabernet vintage I have ever worked with as a winemaker!... and I have seen some great ones – our '97 was named in the "Top 20 Wines of the Vintage" by the New York Times and this surpasses that one! Mother Nature hugged us and kissed us on the lips! What I mean by this is that the climate and weather at these vineyards was ideal for making great wines – the spring and summer were warm allowing the tannins in the skins and seeds of the grapes to become very ripe. Tannin is the component that makes many Cabernets astringent, having a harsher texture, the harsher tannins will soften in the bottle, so many people began ageing Cabernet to make the textures more approachable – Well, although this one has a wonderful structure and is plenty age-worthy, probably up to 10 years, – you do not have to wait for this one to smooth out! Between mother natures warm growing season and my gentle handling and attention to detail in the winery this one is velvety and lovable *right now* – Just give it a week or 2 to settle down from the flight and the ride in the UPS truck and it is ready to enjoy!

The tannins are present but rich and mouth coating not bitter or astringent! The other wonderful part of this 2001 vintage in Napa was that after the warm days of spring and summer we had some very moderate cooler days during late September and early October; so the winemakers that did not panic and rush into harvest because of the warm summer days, were blessed with an extended "hangtime" on the vine that let the complex flavor chains continue to develop for a few additional weeks, this means more subtle layers of aromas and flavors that you can't help but notice and enjoy in this wine.

My tasting notes from just prior to bottling are: "The ultra-rich layers keep unfolding into new aromas and flavors as the wine opens up...both red and black currents push forward mixed with exotic spice and roasted cocoa and coffee. Always in balance but never ending, as vibrant aromas of violets and sandalwood embrace the juicy plums and berries. Firm but supple. Masculine but sensual. Balanced beyond belief!" My descriptors could go on for hours just like the finish of this wine, but you do not have to read about its qualities you can experience them first hand! Our Cabernets have received many gold medals and several scores of 90+ points – this one has not been released to the press yet but my review is certainly **A+**.

The ripeness and sheer power of this wine is impossible to miss, but not due to any one element of power but the force of the complexity. I feel blessed as a winemaker to have been given these gifts from the Napa Valley vineyards in 2001, and to have a great, loyal group of "Friends of the Family" to share them with! We are spoiled here in California with lots of very good growing seasons but not every vintage is the same. My first harvest working in the winery was 1989 and it began to rain hard for several days just as the harvest began and I can remember the worry and frustration of every farmers face throughout the entire Napa-Sonoma area.

In 1998, the third year with my own vineyards and the second with our Davis Family Vineyards label was the *El Nino* year and the vines "woke up" and began their season a full month later than this blessed 2001 – 1998 was a year where only the very best winemakers made great wines, even 2000 was hit and miss. (fortunately according to the critics we were a hit rather than a miss!) The good news as I sit here writing these notes for your Cabernet shipment, is that I am preparing to pick grapes at 5:30 am tomorrow from what looks to be another banner year! – This will be the fourth in a row so there are more great wines that will keep coming your way!

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