



ARAUJO ESTATE WINES 2008 ALTAGRACIA

WINEGROWING INFORMATION

The 2008 growing season was year of extremes, beginning with intense storms that brought rain and high winds, but the precipitation soon waned and for the second year in a row, less than 60% of normal rainfall was received. The spring season was one of the driest on record. The dry soils prompted grapevines to push out early, just as frigid, dry air in early spring created conditions for the deepest and longest frost period in three decades, against which our wind machines proved ineffective. The Cabernet grapes were not spared by the frosts, which caused a loss of over 20% of the normal crop. The vines produced a small canopy in response to the lack of soil moisture, while enduring an early heat spike at bloom. A cooler summer ensued, allowing the naturally resilient vines to focus on ripening their small crop in the mild temperatures. After the early start to the growing season, the Eisele Vineyard harvest began slightly earlier than normal, with the first block of Cabernet harvested on September 11th and the final grapes picked on October 1st. The fruit was sorted, de-stemmed and cold-soaked, undergoing native yeast fermentations and long macerations in small stainless steel tanks. The wine was aged in 100% new French oak barrels for 23 months and bottled in September 2010. This vintage was the first that we were able to source fruit from two other stellar Napa Valley vineyards; some of the resulting wine was used in the Altagracia, and based on the outcome, we will likely continue to produce Altagracia with the addition of some of our friends' excellent fruit.

TASTING NOTES

This wine, made from a blend of Eisele Vineyard and premium Napa Valley fruit, exudes warm aromas of cassis, red currant and blueberry, enhanced by notes of pie crust, roasted coffee, graphite and vanilla. In the mouth, it coats the palate with dense, velvety texture and seductive, ripe flavors of red fruit, tar and coffee, followed by a long mineral finish that reveals its underlying grace. Notes winemaker Françoise Peschon: *This is a seamless wine that transitions beautifully from nose to palate. The tannins are in perfect harmony with the fruit, supporting a wine that is balanced, with brightness and focus from its fine acid structure. It is elegant, pure, regal and complete.*

GRAPE SOURCE

57% Cabernet Sauvignon Eisele Vineyard
20% Petit Verdot Eisele Vineyard
11% Cabernet Sauvignon
6% Cabernet Franc
6% Merlot
Napa Valley

PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol: 14.2%
Total Acid: 0.60 g/100ml
pH: 3.77
Production: 400 cases
Release date: May 1, 2011

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