



1998 Cabernet Sauvignon

Release Date:	<i>November 1, 2001</i>
Vineyard Location:	<i>Long Meadow Ranch Bear Canyon Vineyard (100%)</i>
Varietal Composition:	<i>97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc</i>
Brix at Harvest:	<i>23.7°</i>
Cooperage:	<i>Aged 26 months in French oak coopered by Seguin-Moreau. Medium toast. 50 percent new.</i>
Alcohol:	<i>13.2%</i>
Production:	<i>Less than 1000 cases</i>
Food Affinities:	<i>Perfect with Long Meadow Ranch Grass-fed Highland Beef, with lamb, or with roasted game.</i>

Growing Season: A wet spring reduced the fruit set and careful thinning at veraison, for even ripening, further decreased the crop. Yields were less than half of '97, but the result was a memorable vintage with firm tannins and concentrated flavors. A long, dry growing season - provided by the extra hours of sunshine on our mountain - produced excellent, fully ripe fruit.

Winemaker's Comments: "The 1998 Cabernet Sauvignon is another fine example of the vineyard's distinctive black and red fruit flavors, with ripe tannins and a long finish. We lengthened the time in barrel to allow the fruit flavors and grape tannins to integrate and fully evolve. Our '98 Cabernet has been a standout since the very first public barrel tasting with the trade. Properly decanted and presented, this wine is one of the best of the '98 vintage."
- Cathy Corison

The Vineyards: Southwest-facing estate vineyards at 1100 feet elevation atop the Mayacamas Mountains at the edge of Bear Canyon. Development began in 1990. Managed by organic pioneer Frank Leeds. Budwood hand-selected from the Bella Oaks Vineyard in Rutherford and Jordan Vineyard in Alexander Valley, planted on 110R rootstock at 9x5 spacing and using contoured terraces. This is the first vineyard established on Long Meadow Ranch since before Prohibition.

Long Meadow Ranch: Owned by Ted and Laddie Hall, LMR employs an integrated organic farming system using simple, sustainable methods. Each part of the Ranch contributes to the health of the whole. Vineyards and wine making, olive orchards and olive oil making, cattle and horse breeding all work together in complementary fashion, as do the egg-laying poultry flock and the organic vegetable gardens. "Estate" fertilizers are created through an extensive composting operation that relies on organic material from each segment of the Ranch. Soil erosion is controlled and new soils are built through the extensive use of permanent cover crops made up of carefully selected grasses, clovers, and legumes. All crops are certified organic by the California Certified Organic Farmers and are grown without the use of herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers.

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