



## 1997 Cabernet Sauvignon

Release Date: *Debut Fall 2000; Re-Release Fall 2004*

Suggested Retail Price: *\$85 per 750ml*

Vineyard Location: *Long Meadow Ranch Bear Canyon Vineyard (100%)*

Harvest Dates: *September 7-9, 1997*

Varietal Composition: *97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc*

Brix at Harvest: *23.7°*

Cooperage: *Aged 26 months in French oak coopered by Seguin-Moreau. Medium toast. 50 percent new.*

Alcohol: *13.2%*

Production: *About 2200 cases*

Food Affinities: *Perfect with Long Meadow Ranch Grass-fed Highland Beef, with lamb, or with roasted game.*

**Growing Season:** This outstanding season started when the warm, dry soils at the end of February triggered bud break a full month early. Bloom followed in early May. As the fruit set, we recognized that the outstanding weather of the previous year would result in an exceptional crop. A temperate summer with moderate, steady temperatures allowed the fruit to reach optimal maturity with good hang time for the full development of character and flavors. 1997 was a vintage of great quality and quantity throughout the Napa Valley and especially in our mountaintop location.

**Winemaker's Comments:** "This wonderful vintage from the Long Meadow Ranch vineyard confirmed that we have a truly distinctive terroir. The deep black cherry aromas and the blueberry and red plum fruit combined to create a clearly recognizable signature for this wine. Upon release the '97 was a full, voluptuous expression of mountain fruit. And, now as the wine has evolved, it is beginning to show hints of tar and cedar. "  
– 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 in 1997 by Napa Valley legend Frank (Laurie) Wood. 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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