



ANTICA NAPA VALLEY 2009 TOWNSEND VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Origin: Atlas Peak District - Napa Valley

Grapes: 100% Townsend Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (estate)

The Antica Napa Valley 2009 Townsend Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon offers a weave of ripe plum, blackberry, and currant joined together by mocha, espresso, and mineral notes. This is a full-bodied wine with a savory, long and graceful finish.

Climate/Vintage:

Temperatures throughout the winter months were mild with below normal rainfall, marking a third consecutive year of drought conditions for Napa Valley. A dry spring with slightly higher temperatures than normal provided excellent weather conditions for flowering and uniform fruit set. Dry conditions prevailed throughout the summer and early fall. Warm daytime temperatures along with cool night time temperatures into the autumn months assured healthy and completely ripe Cabernet Sauvignon grapes rich in winemaking potential.

Vineyard:

Set high on the ridge overlooking Rector Canyon and Napa Valley some 1600 feet below, this 24-acre vineyard is planted on a west-facing slope of well-drained, volcanic soils. Townsend Vineyard's architecture is based on Antinori's planting philosophy for new vineyards in Tuscany: high-density vine spacing ensures low production of fruit per vine, the vine rows are aligned from east to west to achieve ideal sun exposure, and the vines are trained low to the ground to take advantage of radiant heat from the volcanic rock and soils. Finally, rootstock and clones of Cabernet Sauvignon were chosen to complement Townsend's terroir, ensuring the best fruit expression.

Vinification:

Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were hand-picked in the cool morning hours of September 26 and October 5, with an average yield of 3.6 pounds of fruit per vine, at ideal ripeness and uniform maturity. During fermentation, preserving varietal aroma and creating a well-textured wine was of utmost importance. The abundant, aromatically rich and fine-textured tannins were easy to extract. After primary fermentation, the young wine was put in French oak barrels where malolactic fermentation took place by year's end. The wine aged an additional 15 months, with individual barrels tended and tasted to guarantee the elegance and character of the tannins. The wine was blended and bottled on the estate, then aged for one more year before release. Antinori chief enologist Renzo Cotarella and the Antica winemaking team oversaw production, resulting in a great wine with true Napa Valley character.

Soprattutto is Italian for "above all," and reflects Piero Antinori's guiding principle when he selected the place for Antica Napa Valley: altitude. The estate is considered to be, above all, ideal winegrowing country. Piero knew that this property's particular location—with its steep terrain, rocky, well-drained soils and high elevation—also offered great potential for growing quality wine grapes. Soprattutto is our small collection of estate-grown wines which deliciously express the Antinori Family's rich Tuscan heritage now continued in Napa Valley.