



2008 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc

Appellation: Napa Valley-Spring Mountain District

Vineyards: La Perla, Miravalle

Varietals: Sauvignon Blanc 87%; Semillon 13%

Fermentation: 95% Neutral French Oak, 5% Acacia Sur-Lie Batonnage

Alcohol: 14.5%

Production: 675 Cases



Winemaker Notes

The 2008 Sauvignon Blanc has a beautiful straw yellow color with green highlights. The nose is an intense combination of citrus and floral notes mixed with pronounced stony minerality – a complex marriage of varietal and specific terroir. The palate is silky and elegant. Clean flavors of lime, grapefruit, white peach, apricot and hints of linden echo the wine’s aromas. Grown in austere, rocky soils, the wine’s minerality is evocative of a Loire Valley Sancerre, yet its weight and texture is pure Spring Mountain.

2008 Vintage

Intense, balanced wines with bright acidity and concentrated red fruit were achieved. Of note: the minerality and spicy aspects of the Cabernets were particularly enhanced and more prominent than in previous vintages. Unfortunately, yields were down 35% over 2007 due to a severe frost in April that caused us to lose crop. An atypical heat spike in May damaged berry set during the critical bloom period. Lower rainfall (32 inches vs. 46 inches on Spring Mountain) also contributed to low yields.

Spring Mountain Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc

Since 1993, our estate grown Sauvignon Blanc has been styled along the lines of a fine white Bordeaux. The grapes are whole cluster pressed and the juice is cold settled overnight. It is then moved to neutral French oak barrels where fermentation is completed. The wine is kept sur-lie for 6 months with weekly stirring. This marries the wine’s bright flavors and acidity with the rich yeasty, toasty elements provided by barrel contact. Batonnage and extended sur lie aging create a texture that weaves layers of fruit and vanilla into a rich and complete wine.

Spring Mountain Vineyard

Spring Mountain Vineyard is an 850-acre estate on the eastern slopes of Spring Mountain. Over 225 acres of the estate are planted to vine, representing 135 distinct hillside vineyard blocks with many soil types, exposures, and microclimates. Originally, four individual 19th century Napa Valley vineyards, Miravalle, Alba, Chevalier and La Perla are now one vineyard producing primarily Bordeaux varieties. Because of the challenging and diverse hillsides, a substantial portion of the vineyard is planted in densities of over 4,000 vines per acre to the ancient *gobelet* form, a vertical training method invented in an earlier millennium by the Romans. The vineyard yields distinctive mountain wines noted for concentration, elegance and longevity. The quintessential wine from the estate is *Elivette*.