

2006 Red Wine

High density spacing on steep hillsides of rock and clay is a real challenge to farm and the vines have to fight to thrive. The payback is that these low-yielding and hard-working vines produce the best tasting fruit. 2006 was not the easiest vintage but some ruthless fruit thinning helped get this block to the point of even ripeness and balance. The resulting wine is intensely flavored and highly structured. Black fruits, spice, cocoa and fine tannins fill this wine.

We keep all of our individual blocks and sub-blocks of vineyard separate in the cellar to retain as much character of each micro-parcel as possible. When preparing this blend, we select some of our best barrels representing every distinct spot in our vineyard. This gives us a chance to show off the way in which many different elements from the same vineyard combine to make a harmonious Bell Mountain Ranch blend. Bright acidity and rich texture complete this concentrated wine that reflects the site, the vintage and the kind of wine we like to enjoy.

Profile

Appellation	Alexander Valley
Harvest	9-29 through 11-2-06
Cooperage	100% French; 50% new
Blend	50% Merlot; 50% Cabernet Sauvignon
Alcohol	14.5%
Brix	24.3
pH	3.7
Total Acidity	0.58 g/100ml
Bottling	8-8-08
Production	685 cases