

William Cole
VINEYARDS



2006
William Cole Vineyards
Cabernet Sauvignon Cuvée Claire

VINEYARD RESTORED: 1997
2.5 acres planted to Cabernet Sauvignon

SOIL:

*Well drained volcanic tufa loam
with interspersed rock and gravel*

EXPOSURE: *east/southeast*

WILLIAM COLE VINEYARDS
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VINTAGE The 2006 harvest had a variety of challenges from winter flooding and wet weather that continued late into spring delaying budbreak. By early June, the sun came out and vines began to bloom and set fruit. Mid-July presented a record-setting ten day heat wave with cooler weather in August that continued throughout harvest, allowing a long hang-time for the berries to ripen. Cool mornings in October allowed for longer hang time, yielding us wonderful grape quality and complex flavors, finishing in another ideal harvest on October 22nd.

WINEGROWING This hand-crafted Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon is reminiscent of lush, exotic and aromatic cabernet sauvignon. A direct reflection of our soil composition along the lower slopes of Spring Mountain north of St. Helena, William Cole Vineyards 'Cuvée Claire' is cultivated from a 2.5 acre vineyard planted to cabernet sauvignon. Our estate vineyard enjoys a historic legacy going back to the 1870's. The basic weathered volcanic rock that makes up our soils – ranging from silty loam soils to obsidian to coarse volcanic rock – results in the variation and complexity within our small vineyard. The tiny upper half-acre vineyard named 'Claire's Hill' is located on a steep 35 degree gradient whose soils are decidedly more volcanic in nature. These soils have excellent drainage which forces the cabernet vines to reach deep for their water and nutrient values. What results is a smaller and stressed berry which yields thicker skins and more concentrated flavors and tannin ensuring a flavorful and cellarworthy cabernet sauvignon. Owners William and Jane Ballentine are gentle stewards of the land and are proud of their hand-crafted cabernet sauvignon.

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES The 2006 William Cole Cabernet Sauvignon Cuvée Claire shows an intense ruby color with deep blackberry highlights at the edges. A well-balanced and elegant 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2006 has hints of black pepper, smoky oak, black cherry and ripe fig. Flavors of vanilla, blueberry, and dark berries radiate in the lingering silky smooth finish. This is a multi-dimensional wine with balanced tannins and is nicely complex from the start, in the middle palate, and through the finish. A beautiful compliment to food, this wine will age gracefully and can be enjoyed for generations to come.

TECHNICAL DATA

HARVESTED: *October 22, 2006*
100% Cabernet Sauvignon

AGED: *30 months in French oak barrels*

BOTTLED: *March 30, 2009*

ALCOHOL: *14.3%*

PRODUCTION: *526 cases*

