

William Cole
— VINEYARDS —



2009
William Cole Vineyards
Cabernet Sauvignon Cuvée Claire

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES

The 2009 vintage entices with its deep ruby color and aromas of black pepper, spice, and a hint of vanilla. The luscious ripe fruit - blackberry, cherry, and black fig is expressive on the middle palate and blends seamlessly into nuances of bittersweet chocolate with just a touch of toasted oak. While big and bold, this wine has a long and elegant finish combining depth and complexity with soft round tannins revealing ripe fruit reflective of a well-balanced cabernet sauvignon. The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, like celebrated vintages before it, will cellar gracefully for many years.



VINEYARD

Restored 1997

*2.5 acres planted to Cabernet
Sauvignon*

SOIL

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

EXPOSURE

East/Southeast

TECHNICAL DATA

K D U Y H M W G

October 18, 2009

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

D J H G

27 months in French oak barrels

F D H S U R G X F W R Q

784 cases

E R W O G

February 2012

D O F R K R G #

14.3%

VINTAGE

In 2009 nature provided winegrowers with lush beautiful grapes for another great vintage. Late spring rains delayed irrigation needs and a warm spell in June helped the grapes mature after bud break. 2009 had about only four or five 100° days overall, which allowed the grapes to have more time to develop.

Though rainfall was a little more than two-thirds of normal for the third year in a row, the timing was on the vine's side. Combine that with the lack of frost, and a fairly cool growing season, we were fortunate enough to have it all work in unison for the best scenario possible of long hang time on the vine for maximum maturity and ripeness in the grapes.

WINEGROWING

This gently 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 cabernert sauvignon. Owners William and Jane Ballentine use gentle farming techniques in their vineyard as they continue the family winegrowing legacy with their two teenage children, Cole and Claire.