

# Kent Rasmussen Winery

## Cabernet Sauvignon 1999

### Napa



### Kent Rasmussen's Notes

Like America's gene pool, this wine is a melting pot; a combination of wines from several vineyards and three varieties. But, such a combination!--deep, luscious, brimming with rich fruit and cedar flavors! This is, without question, one of the finest vintages of Cabernet we have made.

The grapes for the blend are from several different Valley locations. Each lot was fermented and barreled separately for about its first year, then all the lots were blended together to age and mellow in each other's company. Each vineyard's grapes were different, the grapes from further north in hotter areas were mature and ripe, with heavy flavors and big tannins. The grapes from near Napa city and Carneros were fruity and had a rich mintiness, along with good acidity.

The three varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, were blended to bring out their best. Cabernet Sauvignon provides the structure and backbone of the wine, Merlot the lightness and fruit, and Cabernet Franc the nuance, the spice, and an added layer of charm. Blending is an art and in this blend we see how several varieties can complement each other yet maintain much of their own integrity.

The fermentation of each lot was slightly different, but in general: the grapes were gently picked and crushed, then fermented in small vats. Natural yeast was allowed to grow in some lots, and others were inoculated with commercial yeast strains. Malolactic fermentation was encouraged to finish in barrel. As with all of our wines, cellar treatment was minimal. The 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon is a wonderful wine with deep color, a rich cedar, mint and fruit nose, a mouth filling flavor and delicate refined tannins. It is drinkable right now, but should age very well for ten or twelve years. We hope that you enjoy it as much as we do.

#### Technical Data:

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>pH at bottling:</i>      | 3.5               |
| <i>TA at bottling:</i>      | 6.2 g/L           |
| <i>Alcohol:</i>             | 13.63%            |
| <i>Free SO<sub>2</sub></i>  | 27 ppm            |
| <i>Total SO<sub>2</sub></i> | 70 ppm            |
| <i>Alcohol</i>              | 13.8 %            |
| <i>Bottled</i>              | December 28, 2001 |

#### Varietal Blend:

|                        |
|------------------------|
| 88% Cabernet Sauvignon |
| 9% Merlot              |
| 3% Cabernet Franc      |