



2005 Bénit



Harvest Dates: 10 October – November 2 2005

Alcohol: 15.1%

pH: 3.62

Titrateable Acid: 0.59g/100ml

Fermentation: 100% Tank

Malolactic Fermentation: 100%

Barrel Aging: 20 months, 50% new French Oak

Cooperage: Tonnellerie Marchive - Bordeaux Château Ferre, medium toast

Blend: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon
16% Merlot
8% Cabernet Franc

Appellation: Napa Valley, Stags Leap District

Bottle Date: July 2007 – unfinned and unfiltered

Release Date: May 2008

Production: 150 cases

“Blessed Sacrament” in French, Bénit is an homage to the blessings of terroir that grace the highly acclaimed Stags Leap District.

Consisting of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon blended with 16% Merlot and rounded out with 8% Cabernet Franc, this classically styled wine is full-bodied, yet well balanced with superb intensity, length, persistence and purity. While difficult to resist today, Benit possesses considerable aging potential and will reveal its full promise with five to seven years of bottle age.

Growing Season:

The 2005 growing season was slightly cooler and wetter than normal in the Napa Valley. Winter brought floods, followed by a warm spell in March which led to a perfect, early spring budbreak.

Substantial rains in May and June spurred rapid growth and high cluster counts. The summer months were cool and pleasant with few heat spikes. Fog and cool temperatures were a concern heading into September as sugar levels were yet to rise in all varieties.

Warm, nearly perfect conditions arrived with an Indian Summer making for a later than average harvest, which allowed the grapes to benefit from extended hang and achieve true physiological ripeness, producing fruit excellent sugar development and balanced acids.

2005 produced a larger than average crop of exceptional quality that is widely considered a signature year and is being likened to the historic 1997 vintage.

Tasting Notes:

Aromas of black, chewy fruit, cedar, chocolate, and dried herbs, followed by rich, juicy flavors of blackberry, dark chocolate, and tobacco. The tannins are ripe and supple. This wine is atypical of a conventional California Cabernet in its elegance and finesse, and possesses good acidity, balance and a seamless finish.

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