



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2003 Cabernet Sauvignon

Production: 511 cases

Composition: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec, 2% Merlot

Vineyards: Soda Canyon, Beau Terre, Cornish, Hansen, Nelson

Appellation: Napa Valley, Atlas Peak, Bennett Valley

Elevation: Soda Canyon 1200 ft, Valley floor, Bennett Valley 900 ft

Vine Age: 6 to 8 years

Cooperage: 16 months in 45% new French Oak

Alcohol: 15.3%, TA 0.62, pH 3.62

The 2003 Hill Family Cabernet Sauvignon is a blend of mountain Cabernet from Soda Canyon, and valley floor Cabernet from the Beau Terre Vineyard and from a few other small select vineyards. The mountain grapes have intensity and finesse and the valley floor grapes have plushy, friendly palates. Though all the lots were very good wines, the resulting blend is greater than its parts – a really exciting wine.

Winemaker Alison Doran's tasting notes:

It was very educational for me to watch these grapes ripen. Mountain fruit really does have a different set of characteristics, with higher tannin levels, but more chance with the long days and warmer nights to convert those tannins into complex ripe fruit. Meanwhile, the valley floor grapes became fruitier and softer, with 15 to 25% shrivel, making for rich and concentrated flavors. The Cabernet Sauvignon has a lovely berry and violet nose, made richer with that sweet vanilla oak aroma. The palate has a wonderful blackberry flavor on entry, with a richly balanced mid palate and a hint of spicy briary sage, then a mild bite of tannin on the finish