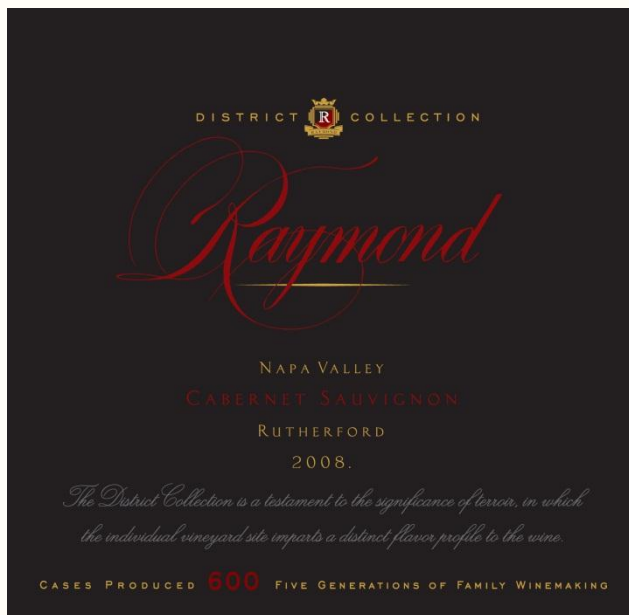


NAPA VALLEY

Raymond

2008 DISTRICT COLLECTION RUTHERFORD CABERNET SAUVIGNON



TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: RUTHERFORD, NAPA VALLEY

VARIETAL: 100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

ALCOHOL: 16.0% BY VOL.

PH: 3.57

TA: 6.3 G/L

FERMENTATION: 15 MONTHS IN 35% NEW
FRENCH OAK

PRODUCTION: 600 CASES

IN THE VINEYARD

The grapes for the Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon were sourced from Blocks 1 and 2 of the Raymond estate vineyard and the Heitz Trailside Vineyard in Rutherford. The Raymond estate vineyard has a Lyre trellis system pruned to quadrilateral cordons with vines spaced eight feet apart and ten feet between each row. The maturity of the vines contributes to the concentrated Cabernet flavors and the rich, well drained soils are an essential component to high quality grape growing.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE

While the spring ended up being one of the driest on record, the season started off cool and rainy. Growers were initially predicting an early harvest, but due to a cooler summer, picking started just ahead of normal. A heat spell early in September kicked everyone into high gear as several varieties were ready to pick all at once, but just as quickly as the heat arrived, the temperatures dropped to well below normal and there was time to catch up. All in all, 2008 was a low-yielding, yet high-quality vintage.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

The grapes were fermented on the skins for ten days with pumpovers twice daily. After fermentation, the wine was gently pressed, racked and aged in 100% French oak barrels, with 35% new oak in Demptos, Saury, Nadalie and Chalafour barrels. Tightly grained French oak barrels impart their oak to wines slowly for a consistent, well-rounded aging process while yielding subtle oak influences to the Cabernet Sauvignon.

WINE PROFILE

Luscious aromas of decadent dark chocolate, plum, framboise and brown sugar lift from the glass while luscious notes of black licorice and cola complete the rich bouquet. On the palate, this classic Rutherford Cabernet is big and chewy with structured tannins and flavors of cedar, espresso beans and mulling spices.