



# CHATEAU ST JEAN®

1996 SONOMA COUNTY

CINQ CÉPAGES CABERNET SAUVIGNON



## The Vineyards

Sonoma County is home to some of the most diverse American Viticultural Areas. Alexander Valley, Knights Valley, Sonoma Valley and Dry Creek Valley were the appellations selected for this vintage of Cinq Cépages. Within Sonoma County, these appellations provide ideal growing conditions for the Bordeaux varietals used in the wine.

## Winemaking

This wine captures the best of "five varieties" the depth and dark fruit of Cabernet Sauvignon (75%), supple texture of Merlot (11%), spice of Cabernet Franc (8%), roasted coffee of Malbec (3%), and intense color of Petite Verdot (3%). A complex wine, it is aged for over 2 years in French oak to produce depth of flavor and smooth finish.

## Critical Acclaim

### 1996 Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County Cinq Cépages

**Rated 95 SPECTATOR SELECTION** "Dense, rich and complex describes this '96 California Cabernet-with its layers of mineral, plum, cherry and toasty oak and its broad, intense and deeply flavorful finish. An extraordinary wine, scoring classic and well-priced. Best from 2000 through 2008."

*Wine Spectator* November 15, 1999

**Rated 93** "A bigger, more structured and muscular version of the 1995... Cedar, fruitcake, and Provencal herbs are intertwined with chocolate, black currants, and toasty oak... Full-bodied, powerful..."

Robert M. Parker, Jr. *The Wine Advocate* December 23, 1998

### 1995 Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County Cinq Cépages

**Rated 91 SPECTATOR SELECTION** "An elegant California Cabernet, ripe and smooth, showing bright, complex black cherry, currant, plum and spicy notes, finishing with well-integrated tannins and the kind of fruit concentration that bodes well for short-to mid-range cellaring."

*Wine Spectator* October 31, 1998

### 1994 Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County Cinq Cépages

**Rated 91 SPECTATOR SELECTION** "A smooth, ripe and fleshy Cab blend, with a pretty, concentrated core of plum, cherry, currant and wild berry flavors and a rich fruity aftertaste echoing the fruit and light oak."

*Wine Spectator* September 30, 1997

**Harvest Dates** Sept. 11-Oct. 14, 1996

**Harvest Sugar** 24.0° Brix

**Total Acidity** 0.61 gm/100ml

**pH** 3.65

**Alcohol** 14.4% by volume

**Bottled** Spring 1999

**Ageability** 5-10 years

**Release** December 1999

## Winemaker's Comments

Black cherry, cassis, chocolate, blueberry and spice fill the nose of this Cabernet Sauvignon blend. On the mouth, concentrated flavors of bittersweet chocolate, blackberry, coffee, toasted oak and tobacco provide this complex wine with a smooth, savory finish.

  
Steve Reeder, Winemaker