



## Lang & Reed 2003 Cabernet Franc 'Premier Etage' – Napa Valley

Crafted to explore a deeper profile of Cabernet Franc, the 1997 Lang & Reed Premier Etage is the second release of this wine. It is composed of 100% Napa Valley Cabernet Franc selected from three vineyards located between St. Helena and Calistoga. We utilize whole berry fermentation with indigenous yeast combined with select yeast strains to help bring forth many layers of flavor and complexity. Post fermentation maceration, employed for thirty days after crushing, allows for the tannins to polymerize, impacting texture and length. After maceration, the wine was racked into French oak barrels, predominantly one and two years old, and allowed 20 months of aging with a minimal number of rackings. Only fourteen barrels of this wine were produced from the 1997 vintage. The words Premier Etage by literal definition mean the 'first floor', or the level above the ground floor. Lang & Reed's interpretive definition means one level up, a deeper profile and more complex expression of the Cabernet Franc grape.

### Description

This Premier Etage displays a dried flower and herb perfume mixed with top notes of berry fruit, vanilla and a touch of smoke. The flavors are a combination of the aromatic notes with a typical dark Swiss chocolate impression noted in previous vintages of the Premier Etage. The follow-through is intense as the combination of rich fruit, fine-grain tannin and 'good' wood provides the wine with ample structure and proportion. We always view the Premier Etage to be a 'Vin de Garde', or a wine to age, meaning that with proper cellaring the wine will display additional complexity and nuance.

Varietal Composition	97% Cabernet Franc
	3% Petit Verdot
Cooperage	French Oak Barrels
Case Production	426 Cases (12 x 750mL)
Label Design	Jeanee Greco, Caffe Greco Design, New York

"OK, I might be predisposed to like this wine because the owner/winemaker, John Skupny, was the first person to bring me into the wine world. But his brand is pretty much acknowledged to be California's best Cabernet Franc!"

Doug Frost, MW, MS – *Kansas City Star*

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