



Lang & Reed 1996 'Premier Etage' Cabernet Franc – Napa Valley

Created to explore a slightly different approach than our one-year release, the 'Premier Etage' is an expression of two very fine vineyards. One is located mid-way between St. Helena and Calistoga, composed of deep gravelly creek bed soil-sand. The other vineyard is located on the back western benches of St. Helena. Crafted to bring out a deeper profile of Cabernet Franc, this wine displays dense fruit and herb aromas. The flavors are full and satisfying, with impressions of black cherry and cassis. The tannins are present, but they convey a fine texture that helps to lengthen the finish. The blend includes 5% Petit Verdot. We aged this wine for 22 months in French oak barrels, and we bottled 18 barrels in late July, resulting in 450 cases. When asked to describe our approach in making the 'Premier Etage,' we reply that we are trying to create the depth, layering and subtle vibrancy similar to Miles Davis' 'Kind of Blue' era!

WHO KEEPS SAYING THOSE THINGS ABOUT LANG & REED?

"Cabernet Franc, still wide open to interpretation, has considerable potential. Veteran wineman, John Skupny, owner of Lang & Reed, zeros in on different styles with his two attractive styles. The longer-aged '96 (Premier Etage) shows the subtle blueberry and spice side of cabernet Franc, and again in small oak, it is classic Cabernet Franc (St. Emilion style) with supple tannin and structure. 91Pts. Excellent."

Norm Roby, *Guide to Winery Direct Wines*

"Full-bodied wine designed to be like a St. Emilion. Gravelly soils produce earthy, black cherry-cassis fruit; lingering finish of herbs and cedar. Recommended!"

William Sherer, MS, *Santé Magazine*

"The '96 Premier Etage has bright perfumed bouquet of black cherry, cassis, fresh plum, and cigar box with hints of pepper, dill, and ripe strawberry. The flavors of cherries/berries, toast, and herbs are very rich and complex, followed by a lovely, elegant fruity finish. 92Pts Excellent!"

Joseph Sullivan, *The Insiders Wine Line*

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