



Lang & Reed 1999 'Premier Etage' Cabernet Franc – Napa Valley

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.

The Lang & Reed 1999 Premier Etage, composed of 100% Cabernet Franc, is the fourth vintage release and emanates from two very distinct Napa Valley Vineyards. Premier Etage rises to the challenges of expressing intense quality of fruit and building complexities from the different terrior of the two vineyards. Each cuvee receives slightly different fermentation regimes best suited to the particular vineyard and the ripeness of the grapes. All the grapes are de-stemmed, but not crushed, allowing the partial, whole-berry fermentation to bring forth the seductive Cabernet Franc perfume, aromas and fruit flavors. Various lengths of post-fermentation maceration are employed before the wine is racked into French oak barrels.

Description

Heady aromas typify Cabernet Franc by displaying dried flower and herb perfumes mixed with top notes of berry fruit, vanilla and a touch of smoke. Concentrated flavors, perhaps the most dense of any of our Premier Etage vintages, offer cherry syrup richness with dark Swiss chocolate. The follow-through is equally intense as the combination of rich fruit, fine-grain tannin and 'good' wood provides the wine with ample structure and proportion, harmoniously balancing the flavors on the palate. Premier Etage is always considered a 'Vin de Garde', or a wine to age, and this vintage will surely prove this out.

Varietal Composition	100% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	100% Napa Valley
Vineyards	Alluvial Vineyard, St. Helena Fortuna Vineyard, Oakville
Alcohol Content	13.5% by Volume
Cooperage	French Oak Barrels – 20 Months
Case Production	550 Cases (12 x 750mL)
Bottling Date	July 10, 2001
Label Design	Jeanne Greco, Caffe Greco Design, New York

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