



*Elizabeth Spencer*<sup>™</sup>

## 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford

Appellation: Rutherford  
Varietal Blend: 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot  
Production: 7 Barrels  
Winemakers: Spencer Graham

### Winemaker's Notes

Rich dark red-maroon in color, with flashes of bright purple at the edges. Captivating aromas of dark fruit interspersed with graphite and laurel along with hints of allspice and ripe plums. Precise and focused on the palate, presenting classic Cabernet Sauvignon structure framing flavors of black cherry and wet gravel, plum, bramble, and black olives. Brilliantly clean finish with plenty of nerve and vibrancy.

### Winemaking

Upon arrival at the winery, the grape clusters and individual berries were hand-sorted, ensuring that only perfectly sound, ripe fruit was accepted. We opted for a long cold soak prior to fermentation in order to extract as much color and flavor as possible. Allowed to ferment with 'native' yeasts, the must received pump-over treatments while in tank. Once fermentation had completed, the wine was macerated on the skins to increase extract and allow the tannin structure to soften. Aged for 20 months in 100% French oak from select coopers including Taransaud, Sylvain, Darnajou, and Nadalie, this wine was handled as little as possible from fermentation tank to barrel to bottle in order to allow its classically styled structure and flavors to develop unhindered and uninterrupted, preserving the unique character of the wine.

### Vineyards

The fruit for our 2005 Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon was selected from an old and distinguished vineyard on the 'Rutherford Bench' in the central part of the Napa Valley. Reaching from the slopes of the Mayacamas Mountains on the west to just past Highway 29 on the east, the soils of the Rutherford Bench are composed of a rich combination of alluvial soils which produce a specific flavor and aromatic component in Cabernet Sauvignon called 'Rutherford Dust'. In our 2005 Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon, this character is identified as an aroma of allspice.

### Vintage

The 2005 growing season in northern California was characterized by two distinct features: a spring with more than usual precipitation and a slightly cooler than normal summer. As a result, the grapes had an ideally paced development cycle with even ripening throughout. By assiduous management of the crop levels and vine growth, we were able to guide our Cabernet Sauvignon to optimum ripeness with ideal maturation of tannins accompanied by complex and forward aromas and flavors. As a result, this Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon is a true expression of the variety and has clean, pure flavors, ample structure and body, and balancing natural acidity. The wine offers a most pleasing example of the Rutherford Bench's propensity for producing classically styled Cabernet Sauvignon.