



# MADROÑA

Estate Grown

## 2005 Cabernet Franc

*Released November 2007*

### Facts

Estate Grown

El Dorado Appellation

Blend: 75.3% Cabernet Franc

15.9% Syrah

2.8% Merlot

2.5% Touriga Nacional

2.3% Cabernet Sauvignon

0.7% Malbec

0.5% Sousao

Alcohol: 15.2%

pH: 3.76

Total Acidity: 0.54 g/100ml

Bottled: April 25, 2007

Production: 462 cases

Cellaring Potential: 5+ years

Suggested Retail Price: \$16.00

As one of the few wineries in California who bottles Cabernet Franc as a varietal, we are very excited by its performance to date and further potential in our vineyard. There is a tendency in California for this varietal to take on herbaceous characters, which in our vineyards has been drowned out by all the luscious fruit character. The vines produce well balanced fruit bursting with cherry, raspberry and violet notes with virtually no herbaceous characters...the way Cabernet Franc should be.

### The 2005 Vintage

Have you ever met new parents who had based their expectations of the sex of their newborn strictly on an ultrasound? Or even worse, they knew they were having a girl because of tradition, five daughters in the family already? Well, to a degree, that's exactly the case with our 2005 Cabernet Franc.

For over ten years, our vineyards have been producing a Cabernet Franc, in style, straight from the Loire Valley of France (hence the bottle shape). The wine is always medium-bodied, soft, with upfront fruit and spice characters. So imagine our surprise when the 2005 vintage finally started to mature in the barrel. Our little girl was in fact a little boy...big, bold and energetic, straight from the Bordeaux region.

Cradling this young Cab Franc in the glass, I lovingly put my nose in to appreciate the aromas. Deep, dark intense berry fruit explodes in my senses, a bit of a leap from the elegant, delicate characters I had come to expect. Black cherry, plum and ripe blueberry fruit leap out with subtle hints of coffee. Add to this a sprinkling of classic Cab Franc clove, nutmeg and anise spice, and this is a nose to behold.

The palate is equally impressive with an incredibly full-bodied texture. The fore-palate is overflowing with sweet berry fruit with a spice-balance on the mid-palate that any parent would love. But it's the finish of lingering chocolate and raspberry that makes us truly glow with pride.

As much as this wine's style was a surprise, I have to say we love this Cabernet Franc just as much as all of our other Cab Francs. Each, of course, is special in its own way. But we can see a future marriage of the '05 with some rich pepper steak or some exotic spicy sage thing. Either way, we'll be proud!

Madroña Vineyards

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