



MARTIN RAY WINERY
2000 MARIAGE
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

TECHNICAL NOTES

Varietal: 84% Cabernet Sauvignon,
14% Cabernet Franc, 2% Merlot

Harvest Dates:

October 11–17, 2000

Brix at Harvest: 24°

Alcohol: 13.8%

Total Acidity: .61

pH: 3.82

Quantity Produced: 10,000 cases

“Great wine lights a fire in the soul.” —MARTIN RAY

THE VINEYARDS

Our 2000 Mariage Cabernet Sauvignon is a superb blend of grapes grown in three distinguished appellations: Napa Valley, Sonoma Mountain and Mendocino County. The Napa Valley component comes from the valley floor and from Diamond Mountain, where high elevations and volcanic soils result in small, intense berries. The van der Kamp vineyard, located on the northeast side of Sonoma Mountain, sits at 1800 feet and yields grapes with deep color, firm tannins and complexity. The balance comes from ridge top vineyards in Mendocino, where the maritime influence of the Pacific Ocean allow the grapes to develop rich color and concentrated flavors.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2000 vintage had a perfect start with bud break in the middle of March. The weather throughout the spring and early summer remained pleasant. Cold temperatures slowed things down a bit in August and September brought cooler weather which allowed the complexities of the fruit to develop. Fortunately this was followed by warm weather, allowing the grapes to fully ripen. The long harvest blessed our winemaker with additional time to concentrate on ripening the fruit to its peak maturity.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The 2000 Mariage Cabernet Sauvignon follows the traditional winemaking techniques perfected by the legendary Martin Ray over sixty years ago. Hand-harvested grapes are gently crushed and fermented in open-top tanks, creating rich structure in the wine. Minimal sulfur dioxide preserves fruit intensity and enhances the rich, round tannins. French barrels intensify the complexity and character of the wine. The wine begins with ever-changing aromas characteristic of mountain fruit. Ripe cassis and floral notes back aromatics thick with exotic spice and blackberry fruit. The opulent palate is reminiscent of classic Martin Ray Cabernet Sauvignon. This is a bright and robust wine with superb balance and structure with rich flavors extending into an elegant finish. Our 2000 vintage continues the Martin Ray tradition of wines of exceptional quality, structure and finesse.