



1983 Dominus

The 1983 Dominus Estate is the first vintage produced by the John Daniel Society made solely from grapes grown at their Napanook Vineyard in Yountville, California. When the 1983 growing season produced wines with slow-aging tannins, the partners broke with tradition and offered the 1984 vintage as their first release. After a year of additional bottle age, the 1983 Dominus Estate was released in February, 1989.

The wine is composed of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot. The 1983 growing season was quite warm, with a very hot September, resulting in extraordinary concentration of aroma, flavor and tannin.

The 1983 Dominus Estate has a dark ruby color, a complex nose and rich notions of cassis. The wine is full bodied with a deep tannic structure that will assure it many more years of life. Christian Moueix recommends decanting this wine before serving to allow it to develop its full potential.

The label artist for 1983 was Sam Szafran, born in Paris in 1934, and known for his work with pastels.

Vintage Summary:

The Napa Valley experienced an extremely rainy winter (69.7 inches vs. 35.68 inches average), followed by a moderately hot summer and a very hot September. Ten days in September were over 97 degrees, resulting in rapid maturation; sugars went from 21.3 on 9/10 to 22.8 on 9/14.

BEGINNING DATE OF HARVEST: September 13

FINAL DATE OF HARVEST: September 19

PERCENTAGE OF NEW BARRELS: 20%

TIME IN BARREL: 20 months

BOTTLING DATE: December 1985

9-LITER CASES PRODUCED: 2100

RELEASE DATE: February 1989