



## *1996 Napanook*

Napanook is made solely of grapes grown at Napanook vineyard on the west side of Highway 29 in Yountville. 1996 is the first Napanook vintage. Since 1983 Christian Moueix has produced Dominus from the same vineyard.

Established in 1886, Napanook vineyard was one of the first planted in the Napa Valley. It has long been recognized for its extraordinary Cabernet Sauvignon, which today covers 70% of the acreage. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot are also grown, completing the quartet of great Bordeaux varieties.

Napanook is made from blocks at the vineyard that are carefully selected for their lively fruit, soft tannins and early maturing characteristics.

The deep bright ruby robe has good intensity and complements the richness of a mellow nose perfumed with peppery cedar aromas. Fresh, lively red fruit flavors develop slowly to blend harmoniously with fine elegant tannins and a licorice and cinnamon finish. The wine is pleasant and easy to drink now and should age well for the next 10 to 12 years.

The blend includes 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, and 13 % Petit Verdot.

### **Vintage Summary:**

The heavy rains of February and March were followed by a warm April and May, which allowed good moisture for an early budbreak and the growing season. The warm weather continued in June and July and was followed by very hot days moderated by cold nights in August and September. These excellent growing conditions allowed the fruit to reach a full balanced maturity.

BEGINNING DATE OF HARVEST: September 6  
FINAL DATE OF HARVEST: October 8  
PERCENTAGE OF NEW BARRELS: 30%  
TIME IN BARREL: 15 months  
BOTTLING DATE: May 1998  
9-LITER CASES PRODUCED: 2000  
RELEASE DATE: April 1999