



## *1997 Napanook*

Napanook is made solely of grapes grown at Napanook vineyard on the west side of Highway 29 in Yountville. 1997 is the second 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 lots in the cellar that are carefully selected for their lively fruit, soft tannins and early maturing characteristics.

The 1997 Napanook has a deep garnet color with a nose reminiscent of red currant and ripe cherries with hints of mint. Its elegant structure is complemented by a round, lush texture and a long finish. The high percentage of Cabernet Franc and Merlot gives it its suppleness and its fresh and complex nose.

The wine is enjoyable to drink now or within the next decade. Christian Moueix recommends decanting this wine before serving, to develop its full potential.

The 1997 blend includes 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Cabernet Franc, and 17% Merlot.

### **Vintage Summary:**

Substantial rains fell in December and January and were followed by a very dry spring. As the dry weather continued, the bloom started very early in mid-April and was relatively short. This would later make for uniformity of ripeness. By summer it was evident that the harvest would be large and that severe crop thinning was necessary. The favorable weather continued during the summer, which helped the maturation and improved the flavors of the Cabernets and Merlots. At the time of the harvest, the grapes were perfectly matured with refined tannins and a high concentration of flavors.

BEGINNING DATE OF HARVEST: September 4  
FINAL DATE OF HARVEST: September 25  
PERCENTAGE OF NEW BARRELS: 20%  
TIME IN BARREL: 15 months  
BOTTLING DATE: June 1999  
9- LITER CASES PRODUCED: 7200  
RELEASE DATE: January 2000