



CHARLES CREEK
VINEYARD

2003
Las Pasiones Cabernet Sauvignon
Sonoma Valley

Winemaker: Kerry G. Damskey
Production: 521 cases
Date of Bottling: October 2005

The Vineyards: 95% Shaefer Vineyard – Sonoma Valley Hillside Terraces
(1500 foot elevation)
5% Stagecoach Vineyard – Napa Valley (1700 foot elevation)

The Vintage: The 2003 vintage, as all harvests, had its own unique rhythm. Most notable was that bud break was delayed three weeks due to a cold and a wet late spring. In Alexander Valley, over seven inches of rain fell between the first and the last day of April. Conversely, in 2002, almost no rain fell in April and May.

After the April rains, late May and early June were marked by unusually early heat. In the vineyard, with an abundance of available water to the vine, huge canopies of shoot growth were realized. Growers and winemakers thought we might be in for a hot summer.

In fact, the summer of 2003 was temperate. Persistent morning fog kept things cool and Cabernet Sauvignon maturation in the vineyard was ideally slow. In August, it became clear that we winemakers would have Labor Day off; harvest was going to be a late one.

Harvest Date: First week of October

The Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Winemaking: 100% Open Top – Punch Down Tank Fermentation
22 Month In Barrel
25% New French
25% New American Barrel

The Wine: The mountain vineyards that parented this elegant Cabernet have everything going for them; stunning vistas, rocky soils and southern exposure. The color is bright and garnet. Opening with a nose that is rich with violets and anise, gradually giving way to cedar and the warm smell of forest floor. This wine continues to unfold in your glass, becoming more complex and seductive with every sip. This wine is luscious and approachable now and will only give more pleasure with age.

The Stats: Alcohol: 14.7 %
Total Acidity: 6.2 grams/Liter
pH: 3.82
Residual Sugar: Nil