

# STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

## 2009 WINEMAKER SERIES LOT 1 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Crafted especially for our wine club members, the Winemaker Series allows Winemaker Nicki Pruss to select interesting lots and to create unique blends. "I love making the Winemaker Series wines as they allow me to showcase a varietal in a different way and to experiment with new winemaking techniques," said Nicki. "These wines often spend more time in barrel and offer a great juxtaposition to our classic Stag's Leap Wine Cellars offerings.

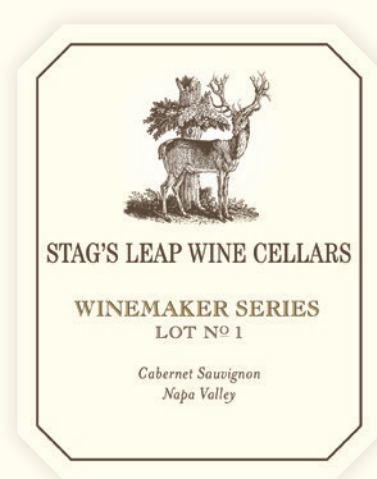
This wine is composed of components sourced from the vineyards of two of our growers. I was inspired to create this blend as a way of showing what can emerge when hillside Cabernet Sauvignon meets Valley floor Cabernet Sauvignon.

The hillside vineyard is located on a bench about 600' above the Valley floor on the eastern aspect of the St. Helena AVA. The slope in this vineyard is up to 25% in some parts and has a southwestern exposure. Sun and hard scrabble rocks are plentiful in this vineyard. I fell in love with this vineyard site when I started as a grape sampler for Stag's Leap Wine Cellars in 1998 and the vines were very young. The views are breathtaking from every block on this property and there is a sense of peace that comes over you when you stop and gaze over the Napa Valley. A real jewel box of a place and I feel privileged to work with this fruit. The site does not lend itself to yielding vines with a lot of vigor. This vineyard produces Cabernet Sauvignon clusters with small, intense berries and deep dark flavors.

In contrast, the vineyard source whose Cabernet Sauvignon I chose to marry with the hillside fruit, is located in the southern aspect of the Oak Knoll District, on a plain that has been influenced by the "wanderings" over the millennia of the Napa River. The soils of this Valley floor vineyard are deeper. The climate is cooler and influenced by the marine air that finds its way into the Valley in the late summer and fall. The berry size is a bit larger yielding more supple tannins and a mix of red and black fruits.

### WINE

The 2009 Winemaker Series, Lot #1 Cabernet Sauvignon opens with vibrant aromas and flavors of cassia, black cherry, fig, chocolate brownie and violet along with a rich and spicy character found in a really good ginger snap cookie with candied ginger. The wine's tannins are "bigger" than our Estate wines yet are fine-grained and round in texture. There is a persistent dark fruit and cocoa character in the finish. Enjoy this wine with herb-crusted prime rib or grilled ribeye steak.



<b>HARVEST DATES:</b>	<i>Sept. 17 – Oct. 12, 2009</i>
<b>pH:</b>	<i>3.82</i>
<b>TITRATABLE ACIDITY:</b>	<i>0.54 g / 100 mL</i>
<b>FERMENTATION:</b>	<i>100% tank</i>
<b>MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION:</b>	<i>100%</i>
<b>BARREL AGING:</b>	<i>24 months 47% new French oak</i>
<b>BLEND:</b>	<i>100% Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
<b>APPELLATION:</b>	<i>Napa Valley</i>
<b>RELEASE DATE:</b>	<i>October 2012</i>
<b>CASES:</b>	<i>250</i>