



## 2007 Claret Napa Valley

### Steltzner Vineyards & Stags Leap District

Our first release from the 2007 vintage highlights the wonderful fruit from the exceptional growing season of 2007. Our Claret bottling is always a fun labor of love. This wine allows us not only to utilize our estate Stags Leap vineyard fruit but also allows us to work with other Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot Vineyards from throughout the southern portion of the Napa Valley. The 2007 harvest started with Merlot from both our Stags Leap Estate and other vineyards, followed by Cabernet Franc and finally finishing with the Cabernet Sauvignon fruit. We worked with all the growers to insure that we received the fruit at optimal ripeness. As we harvested the vineyards each of the blocks were processed separately.

### Claret

Eleanor, Queen of Aquitaine, divorced Louis VII of France and married Henry II of England (1152), securing Aquitaine independence from France. The English had grown fond of Claret, the principal export of Aquitaine province, Bordeaux. Spawned from these events, the 100-year war (1337-1453) ensued over women's property rights and Claret.

This historic merchants' wine reached its popularity zenith the 19<sup>th</sup> century England, Claret emerged as the fashionable beverage of choice. In the English quest of leisure and sociability, it was served in the afternoons at the grand estates and manor houses.

In the tradition of those merchants past we are thrilled to carry on the legacy of Claret!

### Technical Data

**Release Date** ∞ January 2010

**Harvest Date** ∞ September 4 - October 26  
2007

**Brix at Harvest:** 24.6 brix average

### Wine Data

**TA:** .63

**PH.:** 3.51

**Alcohol:** 13.9%

**Fermentation:** 10-15 days average

**Barrel Ageing:** 16 months

Mixed French Oak

### Blend:

68% Cabernet Sauvignon

20% Merlot

12% Cabernet Franc

**Winemaker:** Tim Dolven