



Black Diamond
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
DRY CREEK VALLEY
2010

◆ **GRAPE SOURCING 100% Dry Creek Valley** ◆

From an 1879 history of Sonoma County comes a description of the Valley:

It lies to the north of Healdsburg and west of the Russian River, is about sixteen miles long and two broad, and is without peer in the production of wheat, corn and staple products while the hill land on its border produces all kinds of fruit, being especially adapted to grape culture.

Dry Creek Valley, interestingly enough, became just that--especially adapted to grape culture. Again and again throughout the descriptions from the early days, this place was destined to become a prime wine and grape growing valley. It is famous today for Cabernet and Zinfandel.

One of Sonoma County's original five American Viticultural Areas (AVA), established in 1983, Dry Creek Valley lies west of Alexander Valley and north of the Russian River AVA. Mountain ranges on the west and east sides of the valley protect this small region from cold ocean fog and the daytime heat found in Alexander Valley. Warm afternoons and cool evenings provide ideal growing conditions for full-bodied Bordeaux grape varieties, particularly Cabernet Sauvignon.

◆ **VINTAGE** ◆

A very wet spring and delayed bud break started off a challenging 2010 vintage for growers. After the late start, the growing season that followed was extended and cooler than average. Growers in the vineyards pulled leaves and thinned crops to ensure that grapes reached full ripeness, reducing yields. At the end of the vintage, a heat wave allowed grapes to reach full maturity. Wines from 2010 tend to display elegance, high acidity and concentration of flavors.

◆ **WINEMAKING** ◆

Our winemaker uses time-honored winemaking techniques to highlight the rich, concentrated flavors for which Cabernet Sauvignon from this appellation is known. After extended maceration to increase concentration and soften tannins during fermentation, the wine was aged with French and American Oak for approximately one year. The succulent cherry and cassis flavors of this Cabernet Sauvignon were so inviting that the team chose to bottle it as 100% Cabernet.

◆ **WINEMAKER'S NOTES** ◆

Deep crimson in color, the wine displays dark cassis fruit with hints of coffee and chocolate on the palate and aromas of violets in full bloom. The wine's lush flavors are backed by firm yet fine tannins. This well balanced wine will age in the cellar for the next 10 years.

Suggested pairings: Rib-Eye Steak with Herbed Compound Butter, Coq Au Vin, Polenta with Wild Mushrooms.