

QUINTESSA

2008



THE VINTAGE

The 2008 growing season started out with the second of three consecutive dry winter seasons. Heavy January rains quenched the vines' thirst but there was very little rain afterwards. March and April were almost rain free, with serious frosts. While the Quintessa's vineyard received virtually no frost damage, the cold spring led to significantly fewer clusters on the vines, setting us up for a small yield. Variable weather during bloom limited fertilization of the berries, further reducing the crop. Late summer heat pushed flavors and ripening towards a moderate and dry harvest season. A small crop of concentrated, beautifully ripe fruit was the year's reward. —*Valeria Huneus*

THE WINE

Quintessa 2008 opens with fragrant plum and raspberry aromas with notes of cola, clove and white chocolate rounding out a delicate perfume. The wine enters the palate with sweet red currant and plum fruit flavors and a silky mouthfeel. As it coats the mouth, concentrated dark fruit flavors emerge with succulent balanced tannins, a subtle impression of well-integrated oak and sweetness from the rich, ripe fruit. This vintage will gain complexity in the bottle and age gracefully for a decade and more. —*Winemaker Charles Thomas*

THE QUINTESSENTIAL WINE ESTATE

Agustin and Valeria Huneus developed Quintessa in 1990 to establish the property as one of the great red wine estates of the world. Valeria guided the 280-acre Rutherford vineyard with strict care for the soil and environment with a commitment to biodynamic and organic farming. The vineyard's many microclimates, soil types, elevations, and exposures have been planted to a wide selection of rootstocks and clones, with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and small plots of Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Carmenère. The winery's eco-sensitive design integrates nature and winemaking, with a gravity flow process, naturally cooled winery and caves. Grapes are crushed on the winery roof and flow by gravity into the fermentation room below. After fermentation with native yeasts and extended maceration in stainless steel, French oak and concrete tanks, the wine ages in French oak barrels in the caves. Winemaker Charles Thomas brings over 20 years of winemaking experience in California to Quintessa's next decade. He leads a winemaking team that includes international blending consultant Michel Rolland.

APPELLATION
Rutherford, Napa Valley

VARIETALS
*Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot,
Cabernet Franc, Carmenère*

MACERATION
35 days average

TIME IN OAK
20 months

OAK
*100% French, 85% new from
diverse forests north of the
Loire River, very fine grained,
chateau style, medium plus
toast barrels.*

COOPERS
*Taransaud, Demptos, Sylvain,
Saury, Seguin Moreau*

ALCOHOL
14.2%

BOTTLING DATE
August 2010

RELEASE DATE
September 2011

VINEYARD BLOCKS
(IN DESCENDING ORDER OF
QUANTITY & VARIETAL)

*Dragon's Terraces Cabernet
Sauvignon, Cruz del Sur
Cabernet Sauvignon, Corona
Norte Cabernet Sauvignon,
Corona Sur Cabernet
Sauvignon, Bench Cabernet
Sauvignon, Riviera Sur
Cabernet Sauvignon, Monte
Cruz Cabernet Sauvignon,
Mont Calisse Cabernet
Sauvignon, Howard's Million
Cabernet Sauvignon, Silver
South Merlot, Riviera Norte
Cabernet Franc, Tesoro
Carmenère.*