



SELENE

2003 CHESLER, NAPA VALLEY RED WINE

Release: February 2006; 612 cases (750ml)

Varietal

Composition: 84% Cabernet Franc, 14% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon

Vineyards: Both the Cabernet Franc and Merlot come from the Frediani Family Vineyard in Calistoga. The Cabernet Sauvignon comes from Block C-1 at the Stagecoach Vineyard in Napa.

Wine Making: 2003 had a cool and wet spring. Early season vine growth fell behind, setting the stage for a slightly later harvest and keeping crop size on the small side. Summer and fall provided more of a textbook Napa Valley weather pattern, giving the vines the chance to fully ripen their grapes.

This vintage of Chesler has more Cabernet Franc and a nice chunk of Merlot in the blend compared to the 2002 wine. Both the Franc and the Merlot were particularly strong wines in 2003 because crops were very small and the growing season was mild and even. The two varieties complimented each other well and presented very focused aromas and flavors with the addition of just a bit of Cabernet Sauvignon to the blend. I think you will find the same powerfully aromatic style in the 2003 that was so fetching in the 2002 wine.

Tasting Notes: Violets, raspberries, blackberries, and plum; dark chocolate, sandalwood, caramel, toasted vanilla, very slight mint. A big mouthful with some impact; intense, long flavors with a chewy density to the extract.