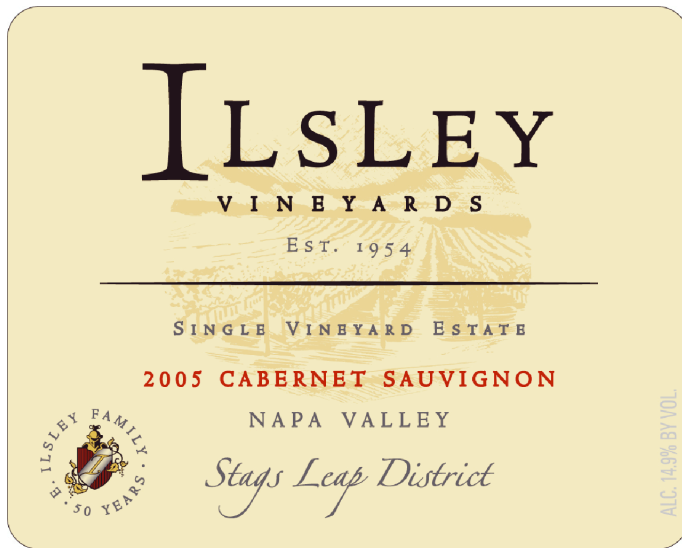


ILSLEY

VINEYARDS

EST. 1954

ILSLEY VINEYARDS TASTING NOTES 2005 CABERNET SAUVIGNON



Vintage: 2005

Appellation: Stags Leap District

Blend: 88% Cabernet Sauvignon,
6% Malbec, 6% Merlot

Winemaker: Craig MacLean

Production: 325 Cases

Harvest Date: Mid-October

Brix: Average 25.6

ph: 3.73

The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon has a deep, dark, ruby red color with a hint of purple. The bouquet is very intriguing, complex and perfumed. This wine is a wonderful mixture of bright black fruits, black cherry, blackberry, blueberries, spice and flowers, slight cedar, and milk chocolate, roses, integrated toasty oak and honeysuckle. It's mouth-filling, with an outstanding middle palate and dense yet smooth tannins. This cabernet has a superb balance with a very long finish. The flavors go on and on...

Vintage notes from David Ilsley

This 2005 vintage was ideal for wine growers, sometimes called a "Cinderella vintage", characterized by moderately high yields and very high quality. Beautiful green vines loaded with grapes, spring rains and mild summer temperatures, produced large clusters with "big wings and shoulders." As a result, veraison was a few weeks later than normal. We began removing the "wings and shoulders" in the Cabernet prior to veraison to ensure that the clusters received the sunlight needed to fully ripen. The Malbec, as always, was a bit different. It set an average crop, and a quick pass through for "green thinning" was all that was needed. By harvest, the crew had passed through some of the Cabernet blocks three times, discarding unwanted clusters. The final yields were higher than average and our efforts clearly paid off. An October harvest, about two weeks later than normal, and long "hangtime" helped to ensure that the Cabernet reached full maturity, with a beautiful combination of fruit and tannin.

Ilsley Vineyards

Located in the Vaca Mountain foothills of Napa Valley's Stags Leap District lie the Ilsley Vineyards. For three generations our family has provided grapes for some of Napa Valley's finest wines. Now after fifty years of farming, we have hand-selected grapes from our hillside vineyards to produce our own Cabernet Sauvignon that we believe captures the essence of the Stags Leap District.

We are proud of our vineyards and the fruit that they bear.



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