

ILSLEY

VINEYARDS
EST. 1954

ILSLEY VINEYARDS TASTING NOTES 2011 SEIS PRIMAS



Vintage: 2011
Appellation: 100% Stags Leap District
Blend: 53% Malbec,
35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot
Winemaker: Heather Pyle
Aged in French Oak Barrels:
21 months
Bottling Date: August 2, 2013
Production: 140 Cases
120 cases of 750ml
10 cases of 1.5L bottles
Brix: Average 26.2
pH: 3.70
Total Acidity: 6.0 g/L
Alcohol: 14.7%

Tasting Notes The 2011 Ilsley Vineyards Seis Primas is a very dark ruby hue with a vibrancy that jumps out of the glass; The aromas start with ripe Bing cherry that is layered with cocoa and a hint of licorice. Vanilla rounds out the aromas. On the palate the wine is round and warm but also notably smooth with no hard edges or bitterness. It finishes with a long lasting spiciness and warmth. This vintage was very rare for California, including the Napa Valley. This wine's suppleness is a product of low yielding grapevines, carefully tended in a very long cool growing season. The low yields and hillside aspects assured ripe fruit flavors that were hard to attain in more common vineyard settings and the season's cool days and nights brought out a finesse and elegance that complements other wines in the Seis Primas vertical.

Vintage Notes 2011 was a long, cool growing season that allowed for extended hang time, even with a smaller than average crop load. Malbec and Merlot always ripen a bit earlier than the Cabernet and were harvested prior to the October rains. Fortunately our hillside Cabernet vineyards offer outstanding drainage and sun exposure that ensured the fruit "weathered" the storms. Well timed leaf removal and cluster thinning allowed the Cabernet to gain fully mature flavors and remain in beautiful condition.

Seis Primas In 1996, Ed Ilsley planted a small block of Malbec near the original 20 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon which had been planted on the family estate in the early 1960s. He believed that this varietal would be well suited to the Stags Leap property. As the vineyards and their family evolved, Ed wanted to honor his granddaughters with a blend of the well established Cabernet and the newer Malbec. Ernie, David and Janice liked their father's idea and they moved forward with it. Working with the Ilsley Vineyards winemaker, they proceeded to create a blend worthy of the fourth generation of their wine growing family. This delicious wine is called Seis Primas, the six girl cousins. It celebrates Kimberly, Julia, Alyssa, Analise, Kate and Olivia, the future of Ilsley Vineyards. Seis Primas is a blend from the six estate vineyard blocks named for each of the six cousins.

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



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