

# PLATINUM SERIES

Select, Ultra Premium, Collectable Wines from California's Best Winemakers

Almost fifteen years ago, San Francisco financial consultant and investment banker Doug Wolf decided to surprise his wife Jane with a most special gift on the occasion of her 40th birthday. The Wolfs were wine lovers and frequent visitors to Napa Valley. During the cold San Francisco summers, the Wolf family rented a home in Napa Valley where their three young children could play and they could escape the colder weather.

In 1997, the Wolfs decided to begin looking for a property with small acreage that also included a home and a pool. It was decided that one or two acres, with or without vines, would suit the family's needs quite nicely.

Doug Wolf happened upon a piece of property that was much larger than he wanted, a 30-acre parcel that was the former Inglewood Estate and Winery. The land was neatly nestled in the foothills of the beautiful eastern Mayacamas Range. Seven acres of the property were planted in vines, along with a wonderful home constructed in 1885 complete with a pool, and fully-working winery. Wolf decided to buy the place and surprise his wife. He invited 100 of their friends to the announcement of their purchase – at the winery itself. Needless to say, Jane Wolf was duly impressed with her birthday present, even though at the time, the family possessed no intention of ever going into the wine business.

A highly-respected vineyard manager named Jim Barbour was the person responsible for the vineyards during this period. He started the Wolfs thinking about the winery. At the same time, one of Barbour's friends, talented winemaker Karen Culler, had just left Robert Mondavi's Vichon Winery, where she had served as winemaker. Barbour knew of Karen's winemaking abilities and put her together with the Wolfs. The two parties hit it off and the decision to enter the winery business was made. The rest, as they say, is part of Napa Valley's storied wine history.

Wolf Family Vineyards soon became a commercial entity with the release of about 120 cases of Cabernet Franc around the turn of the century. Additional acreage had been planted in Cabernet Sauvignon that would serve as the bellwether varietal for Wolf Family Vineyards for the next decade.

"When I first saw the vineyards," explained Karen Culler, "I wasn't too sure of what to expect. The land is actually situated on a pair of St. Helena bench lands that are both elevated, one behind the other. The soil itself is marvelous and there is great drainage, but I was pleasantly surprised when the first crop came in and the quality was really exceptional."

Culler also said that the property's fruit tends to be well above par, particularly in vintages that generally do not rate all that high.

"I imagine it has something to do with the yield," she added. "We have never been able to get the yield above 2 ½ tons an acre, and I think that's the key. The grapes always possess a strong, intense varietal character. Even when we've tried, we've never been able to increase the yield."

Doug and Jane Wolf decided to keep Wolf Family Vineyards tiny, even though their winery permit allowed for larger quantities of wine to be produced. This year,

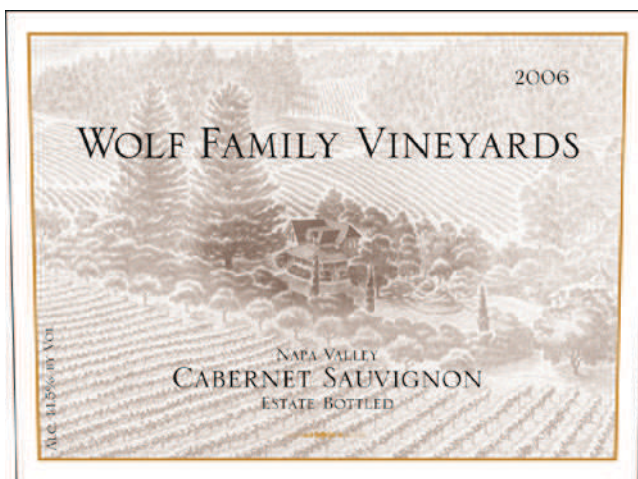
almost 1,000 cases of Wolf Family Vineyards will be bottled, a figure that includes a number of cases of the winery's second label called *Phaedrus*.

"We were always determined to produce only an amount that fit the production of the vineyards," Karen Culler explained further. "Doug's aim was always smaller, not bigger, with quality above all as the end goal."

Doug and Jane Wolf consider themselves wine lovers first, winery owners second. They often say that they enjoy drinking wine more than making it, a refreshing viewpoint in the supercritical and often malevolent world that is today's modern California wine industry.

Wolf Family Vineyards has won numerous awards since their first offering and has received high scores and accolades from national and international wine press. The minuscule winery is a wonderful throwback to the small artesian wineries of the sixties and seventies, when experimentation and craftsmanship were the benchmarks of many smaller wineries.

Doug and Jane Wolf can take great pride in their splendid creation, for they have brought a portfolio of superior wines to the proverbial wine table. They are to be saluted for their introspective views and willingness to keep their winery small and superior in many ways.



*The road to great wine begins at your door.*

## TASTING NOTES



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### 392 Cases Produced

The 2006 Wolf Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon was made exclusively from the estate located just southwest of St. Helena against the foothills of the Mayacamas Mountains in Napa Valley. The small four and a half acre vineyard site consistently produces an extremely low yield of premium estate Cabernet Sauvignon that time and time again rank in the 90+ point range from *Robert Parker*. This 2006 vintage is dense, dark purple in color with intriguing aromas of black plums, cardamom, baked cherry, anise, and forest floor. Brooding flavors of cassis, plum, licorice, toast and blackberry in a powerfully extracted, yet satiny mouth feel blend beautifully in this balanced, polished wine with years of gifts to reveal. *Robert Parker* rates the 2006 Wolf Family Vineyards Estate Cabernet Sauvignon **92 Points**: "The outstanding 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon comes from a vineyard near St. Helena. It exhibits rich blackberry and black currant fruit as well as hints of underbrush, graphite, and tar, plush, opulent tannins, full body, and attractive fruit." Aged 20 months in French oak. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Enjoy now until 2015.

## WOLF FAMILY VINEYARDS

Dear *Platinum Series* Members,

Owning one of St. Helena's premiere winegrowing properties carries great responsibility. When we acquired the historic winegrowing estate in 1997 we recognized raw potential in our location: west side, St. Helena appellation benchland with rocky well-drained soil. We knew that the property was poised and ready to express its world-class status. We made several decisions which have proved to be sound, guided by our commitment to quiet quality.

With the help of vineyard manager Jim Barbour who was literally raised on his family's vineyard in the neighborhood, we planted the right clones on the right low-yielding rootstock. We also made a great decision to hire winemaker Karen Culler to guide the program. The wines she's crafted for us are classic, consistently aligned with the estate and mirror her grace and maturity as a winemaker. We've enjoyed the results of our decisions since the first vintage of Wolf Family Vineyards' Estate Cabernet Sauvignon in 1999. And while we are proud of our wines, we are also pleased that Robert Parker of the *Wine Advocate* has solidly rated our Estate Cabernet in a range from 92 to 96 points.

Seven vintages later, our 2006 vintage of Cabernet Sauvignon is a wonderful example of the expressive quality of the vineyard. We are pleased to be sharing this wine with you; showing beautifully now, it has 15-20 years of evolution yet to reveal. We send our best wishes.

Warmly,

Doug Wolf  
Proprietor

Jane Wolf  
Proprietor

## REORDERS

A fortuitous combination of the demanding standards of winemaker Karen Culler and the Wolf family's "no compromises" philosophy results in a wine with not just loads of fruit, but elegance and savory notes too. The cornerstone of Wolf Family Vineyards, this Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is the most sought-after bottling produced from the small family estate.

The Wolf Family Vineyards 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon retails winery-direct for \$75.00 per bottle. As a *Platinum Series* member your very special pricing is as follows:

2-Bottle Members..... \$60.00 /bottle\*

4-Bottle Members &

Multi-Series Members.....\$56.00 /bottle\*

\*2 bottle min. order [Plus shipping]

Call: I-800-266-8888

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Website: [www.GoldMedalWineClub.com](http://www.GoldMedalWineClub.com)