Groth

1987 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE: The 1987 growing season started early and at an accelerated rate. The unusually warm spring season started an early bloom, and, unfortunately, the heat contributed to the shattering of some of the young buds. The summer months were relatively cool, which slowed down the ripening of the fruit and brought harvest on at a more typical time. The warm spring, coupled with drought conditions, lowered crop levels, particularly in the red varietals. Although our overall vineyard production was down, quality was up, due to the good acid levels and excellent concentration of fruit character.

WINEMAKING: The Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes for this wine were sourced from our two estate vineyards, selected for their mature vines and exceptional growing conditions. The Cabernet Sauvignon was grown at our Oakcross Vineyard in Oakville, in the heart of Napa Valley, while the Merlot came from our Hillview Vineyard just south of Yountville and plays an important role in the final blend.

A cool summer led to slow, even sugar development across the red varietals. Merlot harvest began in mid-September—unusually early, even preceding the Sauvignon Blanc harvest. The fruit arrived in excellent condition, though lighter than expected due to low juice content in the berries. Cabernet harvest began on September 21 as Indian summer settled in, and the final fruit was picked by October 13. Despite reduced yields, the Cabernet was clean, balanced, and of high quality.

Fermentation was carried out in stainless steel tanks at an average temperature of 75°F, with twice-daily pump-overs to ensure optimum skin contact. After seven days, the wine had fermented to dryness and completed secondary malolactic fermentation.

Once ready for barrel aging, the wine was transported to our cellar. The Cabernet Sauvignon aged in a combination of new and used French Nevers and Allier oak barrels, while the Merlot matured separately in both new and used Limousin cooperage. The wines spent nineteen months in barrel before bottling in August 1989.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION
82% Cabernet Sauvignon
18% Merlot

APPELLATION
Napa Valley

ALC: 12.8%

AGING
19 months in French Oak

BOTTLING DATE
August 1989