

A Family Wine Estate

## **ON TIME AND GREAT WINE**

In last year's newsletter we wrote about "somewhereness," the idea that the finest wines are often inextricably linked to a specific and special place. As the stewards of the historic Spottswoode Estate, which we have been farming since 1972, the relationship between somewhereness and great wine has become an integral part of who we are. So has the relationship between time and greatness.

We seemingly live in an age of immediacy: immediate connectivity, immediate information, immediate fame, immediate opinions, and immediate gratification. As a counterpoint to today's hurried pace, the culture of great wine has always prized patience, longevity, continuity, and the committed work of generations. Around the globe, the most revered wine estates almost always measure their histories in decades and generations, if not centuries. Sustained greatness is the product of passion, attention to detail and experience—it is

When the history of Napa's great vineyards is written, the 40-acre Spottswoode vineyard, tucked behind the quaint town of St. Helena, will be counted among the finest grand cru vineyards of the region.

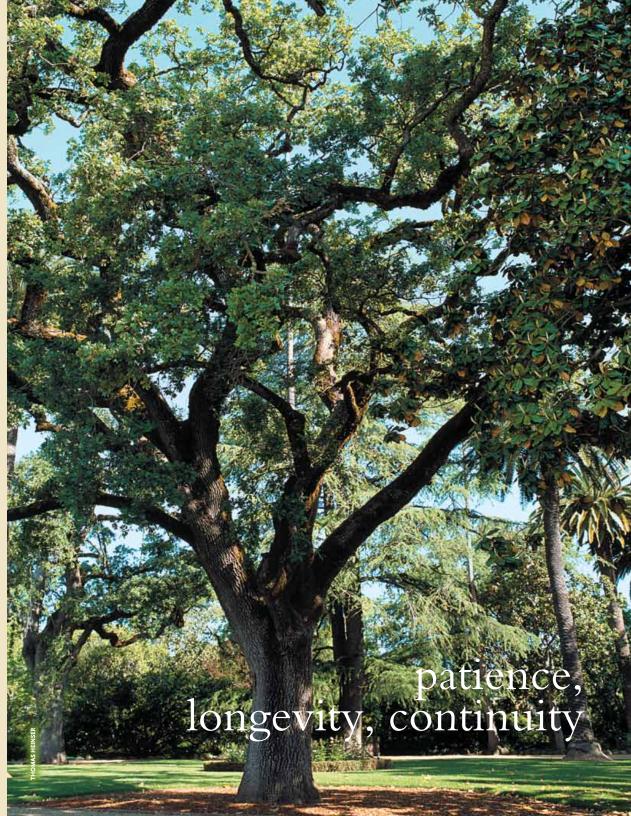
#### SPOTTSWOODE ESTATE

an ongoing pursuit. It is earned. In turn, great bottles of wine are shaped by the wisdom gained through hard work, and by a constant striving to learn from the past and always do better.

In a world where we want most things to be fast, wine gives us magical slowness, a true gift. KAREN MACNEIL

With the release of our 32nd vintage of the Spottswoode Estate Cabernet, the idea of time (and its lessons) is on my mind. Back in 1972, when my parents moved our family from San Diego to Spottswoode, I was not yet a teenager. Though our childhood chores included suckering the vines and cleaning out irrigation emitters, I never really thought about a life in wine until I spent a year abroad studying in Europe. There, wine is a part of life, and the histories of the great wineries are intertwined with national identities and cultures. For someone growing up in the early days of the modern era of Napa Valley winemaking, I found the rich heritage of European culture and wineries inspiring. Though I certainly could not have articulated it at the time, it hinted at the idea that Napa Valley could be on the path toward something remarkable.

I have worked with my mother at Spottswoode for almost 30 years now. In this time, the youthful energy of my siblings and me running around the estate has been replaced by that of our collective children they enjoy swimming, playing basketball, tennis, and running around on the lawn as much as we did! And, some have already started working in the vineyard. Spottswoode continues to be a wonderful gathering place for our family and friends. My mom still walks in the vineyard almost every day with her black lab, Riley, by her side—he



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is the sixth in a long line that have called Spottswoode home. In the cellar, our 34th vintage of Spottswoode Estate Cabernet has just begun its time in barrel. It is a remarkable thing to have a liquid measure of one's work, with each bottle literally a time capsule, holding memories of each passing year. Though every growing season is unique, the vineyard and the wines that it yields are deep and defining constants.

And of course it is impossible to speak about the relationship between time and wine without talking about age-worthiness.

> We talk about being stewards of the vineyard, but the opposite is also true. The vineyard has looked after our family for 43 years, and as much as we have shaped it, it has shaped us just as much, if not more. Perhaps this reciprocity is one of the secrets of great wine, and why time matters so very much.

> And of course it is impossible to speak about the relationship between time and wine without talking about age-worthiness. We believe, unequivocally, that the ability to age well is still a prerequisite of a great wine. This is not to say that great wines cannot be incredibly intriguing in their youth. Unlike in generations past, the best wines today all benefit from impeccable viticultural techniques and flawless winemaking. As a result they can and should taste wonderful in their youth. While these wines, when young, offer immense beauty and immediate pleasure, time will allow their various elements to evolve into something more transcendent.

Great wines, at any age, offer rewards to those who drink them. For many, the opulent generosity of a wine in its youth is greatly valued. Others prize the qualities they find in a wine throughout its



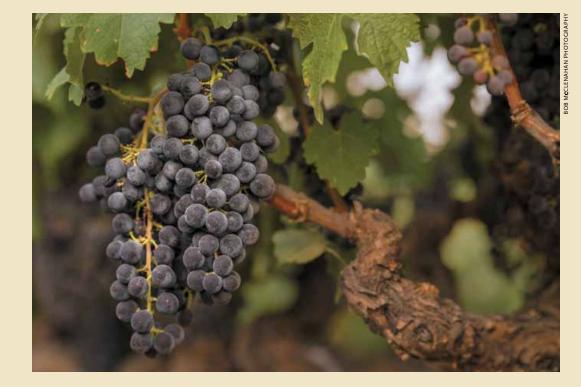
life span, as it matures and evolves over time. Aging wine takes faith and patience, as even the finest Cabernets can go through awkward phases, normally found when straddling that line between the rambunctiousness of youth and the nuances that come with greater maturity. Beyond this stage, lovely layers of fruit and oak are still present, while a greater subtlety begins to develop. As new layers of complexity emerge, what was once fresh and exuberant becomes intriguing and beguiling.

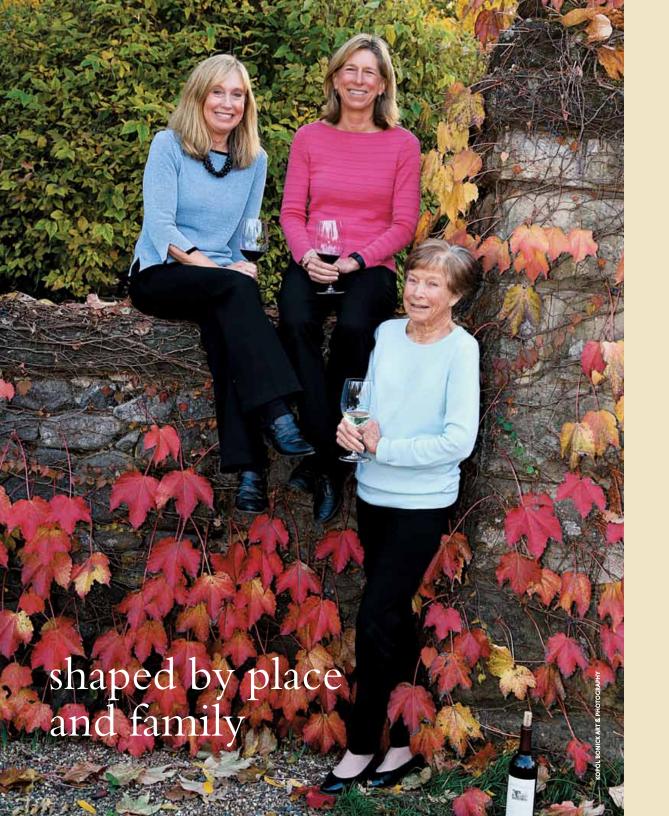
Collectors know that experiencing a phenomenal, perfectly cellared wine at the plateau of its drinkability is something special (and not just because of the years of anticipation). Like seeing an old friend after many years, opening these bottles can remind us of where we came from and tie us to where we are now.

Here at Spottswoode, we assess our older vintages every year so as to gauge their evolution and share with our customers our sense of where each is in its development. To help us in this endeavor, we always include outside tasters—individuals whose palates we greatly admire. These tasters bring a new perspective to our wines, and help us from falling into the trap of having a "house palate." In addition, tasting blind often brings wonderful surprises—it is very often true that those vintages that were not as enthusiastically received in their youth evolve into some of our most exciting and thought-provoking wines. While some of our older vintages have reached a plateau from which they might go no higher, it is a testament to the Spottswoode Estate Vineyard that none of our vintages are, as yet, "over the hill."

Last, but most certainly not least, time is also a true measure of relationships. In the world of wine, and especially in this age of immediacy, we are honored and grateful to have so many friends who have been supporting us for years, if not decades. In many ways, we are in a golden age for Napa Valley wine, with greater across-the-board quality, and far more choices for wine enthusiasts than ever before. Given this, your loyalty, and the fact that so many of you have unbroken lines of our wines going back many vintages is an incredible compliment. It speaks to the trust you have in us, our vineyard, and our wines.

We often hear from our customers who are eager to share experiences they have had when they have opened a long-treasured bottle of Spottswoode on a special birthday, an anniversary, or a college





#### 2016 NEWSLETTER

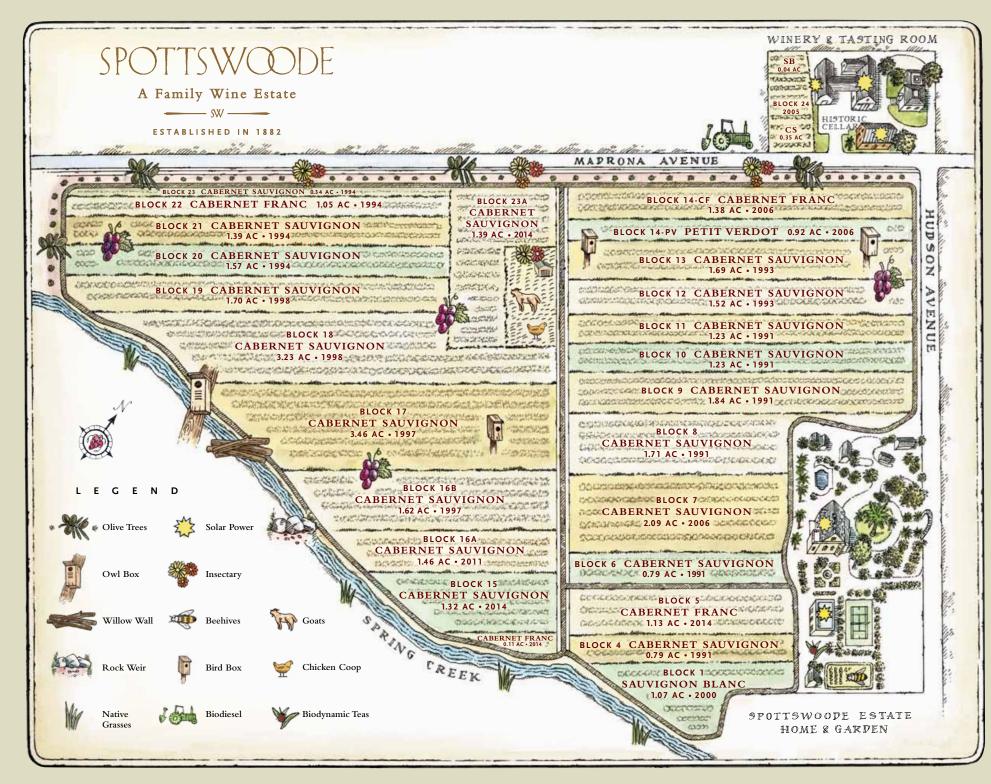
graduation. They speak of marriage-year wines and birth-year wines, and how these Spottswoode wines have marked a meaningful moment and thereby become a memorable part of their lives.

In 1982, when we made our debut Spottswoode Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, there were many wine lovers and passionate collectors people with a deep connection to wine, a profound appreciation for its nuance, beauty, and complexity, and a reverence for its ability to evolve over time to attain something close to timelessness. These were the people we were making wines for back then, and they still are today.

On behalf of my mother, Mary, my sisters, Lindy and Kelley, my brothers, Mike and Matt, our entire family, and all of us here at Spottswoode, thank you for your friendship and trust, for welcoming our wines into your home, and for continuing to make them a special part of your lives.

Warmest wishes,

Beth N. Milliken



Situated on the western edge of St. Helena at the foot of the Mayacamas Mountains, the Spottswoode terroir is ideal for growing fine wine grapes. The alluvial clay loam from the Sulphur Creek fan provides superb drainage, while cool maritime breezes passing through the gap between Spring Mountain and the Mayacamas range allow berries to ripen slowly.

At Spottswoode, the roles of winemaking and vineyard management are integrated, and the individual attention given to each vineyard block contributes to the consistent quality and unique characteristics of our wines.

Our forty acres are planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, with small blocks of Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Sauvignon Blanc. We have organically farmed our grapes since 1985 and were officially certified in 1992.

## **OUR NEW WINE RELEASES**

## SPOTTSWOODE



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# SPOTTSWOODE



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# LYNDENHURS



CABERNET SAUVIER

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#### 2013 SPOTTSWOODE ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

he year 2013 has produced wines of amazing depth and concentration and is eagerly anticipated as another "noteworthy" vintage. Though we had a later-than-normal bud break, sunny warm weather contributed to healthy flowering and beautiful fruit set in the Spottswoode Estate Vineyard. While the berry numbers per cluster were high, the lack of water in this dry year restrained the plants, making canopy growth less vigorous and keeping the berries small and very concentrated. The growing season brought some small rain events at just the right times, allowing our fruit to ripen beautifully.

In September, the estate grapes arrived at the winery in pristine condition with tremendous flavors and exceptional overall quality—we knew from the start that it was going to be a phenomenal vintage. Our Spottswoode Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is a beautiful reflection of this vintage and of our exceptional 40-acre estate vineyard.

WINEMAKER NOTES Opaque deep purple. Packed. Lifted and perfumey. Voluptuous, with a great deal of youthful intensity, demonstrating primary blue and black fruit characters. An enticing potpourri of bakery aromas—chocolatecovered cherries, caramel, spice, coffee bean, boysenberry cream, black cherry, vanilla, crème brûlée, with hints of bay leaf and tobacco, and wonderful underlying minerality. Amazing balance, long finish, structured tannins. Built for aging. We are very excited about this highly anticipated vintage!!

SOURCE OF GRAPES Spottswoode Estate Vineyard Organically farmed since 1985

## APPELLATION

St. Helena, Napa Valley

OAK PROFILE Aged 20 months French oak barrels (new barrels 60%)

September 1, 2016

RELEASE DATE

**BLENDING DETAIL** Cabernet Sauvignon 88% Cabernet Franc 8% Petit Verdot 4%

8% . SW



#### 2013 LYNDENHURST CABERNET SAUVIGNON

A nother product of the phenomenal 2013 vintage, this is quite simply an incredible Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, offering a wine made with the same care and intention as our Spottswoode Cabernet. Made predominantly from our own estate grapes, the Lyndenhurst offers another compelling expression of our famed Spottswoode Estate Vineyard.

This wine was made using 73% fruit from our own estate as well as grapes carefully selected from a handful of conscientious growers who share our mindful and quality-focused approach to farming. This exceptional and highly regarded wine has the depth and complexity to age gracefully—it is a bright and beautifully balanced Napa Valley Cabernet with abundant youthful appeal.

WINEMAKER NOTES Firm, youthful, juicy, fresh blackberries, black cherries and rose petals with coffee and dark chocolate. Dense and rich. Expressive. Great freshness and vivacity with a corresponding richness and power. Cedar with some cream and graham cracker crust. A long finish. Impressive and exceptional—a great deal of potential. We have great enthusiasm for this wine!

#### SOURCE OF GRAPES

Spottswoode Estate Vineyard, St. Helena 73%

Sourced from Darms Lane, Oakville Ranch, Knightsbridge, and Young Inglewood Vineyards 27%

#### APPELLATION

Napa Valley OAK PROFILE Aged 20 months French oak barrels (new barrels 50%) BLENDING DETAIL Cabernet Sauvignon 92%

Malbec 4% Cabernet Franc 2% Petit Verdot 2% RELEASE DATE

NHUB



#### 2015 SPOTTSWOODE SAUVIGNON BLANC

e have been making a highly acclaimed Sauvignon Blanc for three decades, and we make it with the same intention as our Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. Crafted with great care from fruit grown in exceptional soils, it is a serious wine with structure, sophistication, and the ability to age gracefully.

This classically complex and elegant expression of the varietal comes from a who's who of the finest vineyards in Napa Valley and on Sonoma Mountain as noted below, as well as grapes from our own Spottswoode Estate Vineyard.

**WINEMAKER NOTES** Fresh and juicy, with great complexity. A powerful wine that's layered and textured with citrus and stone fruits filling the palate. Fresh pear and white peach mingle with passion fruit and lemon meringue. The mouthwatering vivacious acidity and complex subtle vanilla and creaminess gives great length to this impressive wine.

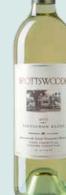
APPELLATION

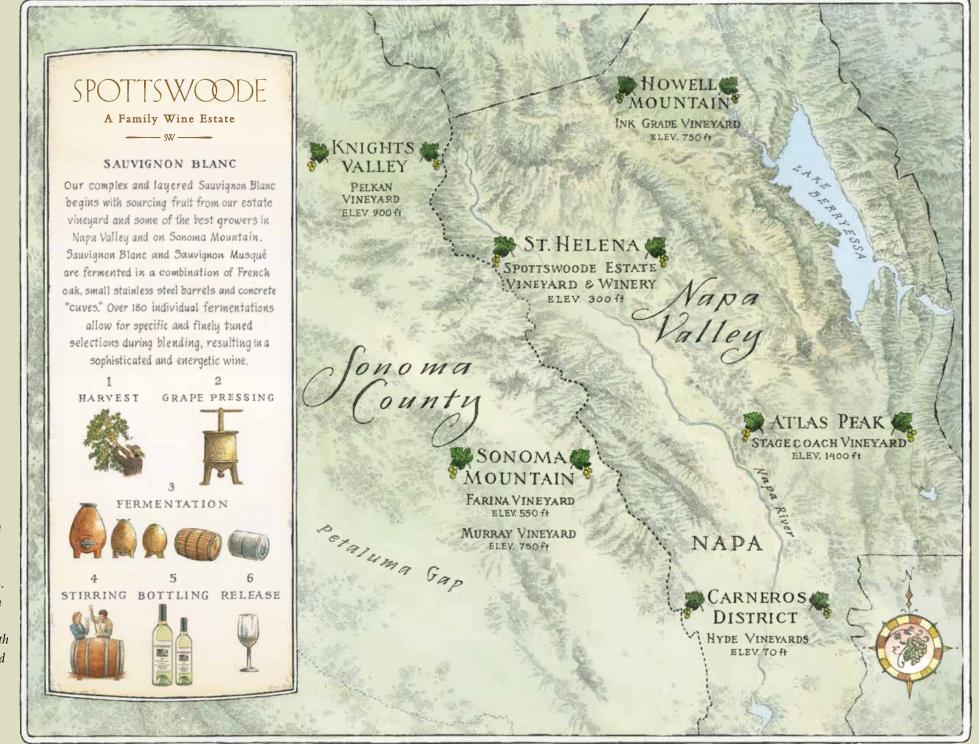
SOURCE OF GRAPES Spottswoode Estate Vineyard, St. Helena Farina Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain Hyde Vineyards, Carneros Ink Grade Vineyards, Howell Mountain Pelkan Vineyards, Knights Valley Murray Vineyard, Sonoma Mountain

Napa Valley 34% Sonoma Mountain 66% FERMENTATION PROFILE

Stainless steel barrels 60% French oak barrels 15% new/20% used Concrete "cuves" 5% VARIETAL Sauvignon Blanc 100% CLONAL SELECTION Clone 1 Clone 6 Sauvignon Musqué







BOB MCCLENAHAN PHOTOGRA

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## **SPOTT ON! OR TOP SPOTT!**

#### THAT IS THE QUESTION...

e appreciate the extraordinarily passionate support of our customers—some of you have been collecting and enjoying Spottswoode Cabernet since the release of our first vintage over 30 years ago! An annual purchase of the Spottswoode Estate Cabernet Sauvignon direct from the winery automatically qualifies you as a member of one of our special clubs and entitles you to several benefits as our way of thanking you.

Your annual full-case purchase of the Estate Cabernet earns you a TOP SPOTT! while a six-bottle purchase of the Estate Cabernet qualifies you to be SPOTT ON! The benefits of each follow below.





#### **TOP SPOTT! Spring Shipping Advantage**

Through March 30, 2016, TOP SPOTT! members may take advantage of \$30 flat rate shipping\* on full-case purchases of 2013 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, which

includes any additional Spottswoode wines purchased on the same order. Any combination of bottle formats of Estate Cabernet combined to make a 9-liter case equivalent qualify for this limited time TOP SPOTT! benefit.

#### Club Benefits for TOP SPOTT! and SPOTT ON!

- **ADVANCE PURCHASING OPPORTUNITIES** Receive our offerings and secure your wine allocations before wines are made available to other mailing list members.
- **CALATE SUMMER GARDEN PARTY INVITATION** Be our guest at our annual event held in late August in the gardens at the private estate home of Spottswoode founder, Mary Novak. We look forward to a delightful afternoon spent chatting with you while sampling library and current release wines.
- **EXCLUSIVE WINES** Acquire an allocation of our very limited production Field Book wines, crafted exclusively for our club members.
- **WINERY VISITS** Reserve a complimentary tour and tasting appointment when planning your next visit. We look forward to the opportunity to get to know you and to share our wine!

<sup>\*</sup> Shipping 2-day air where permitted within the United States. Regular international shipping rates will apply. First available ship date is April 4.

## WINE LIBRARY NOTES

#### Vertical Tasting Held on November 11, 2015

e eagerly anticipate our vertical tasting each November when we gather together and taste through fifteen vintages of Spottswoode Estate Cabernet. A few lucky guests are included each year to assist us in this endeavor, and we value their insights and contributions to our notes. At this tasting we were honored to welcome Virginie Boone (Contributing Editor, *Wine Enthusiast* 

Magazine), Ira Harmon (Master Sommelier), William Kelley (President of Oxford University Wine Circle), Dan Petroski (Winemaker), and Benjamin Richardson (Advanced Sommelier). We are excited to share our collective tasting notes with you to provide some guidance on the wines you might wish to consider opening and those you might decide to hold.

Because wines continue to evolve over time, our impressions vary each year. In this tasting, the group particularly enjoyed the wines marked with our Black Labrador symbol.

**1999 HOLD** Deep ruby purple. Brooding black fruit with loamy undertones. Pomegranate, plum, sandalwood, cinnamon stick, Eastern spice, cedar, sage, black olive, tobacco leaf, leather and dark chocolate. Savory and spicy. Lots of depth, structure and tannin, juicy, vibrant acidity, wonderful tension and balance. Predict a long life ahead.

**2000 DRINK/HOLD** Dark ruby with a hint of garnet. Deep bouquet with rich, savory aromatics and the enticing trademark hint of barnyard that denotes this vintage. Fresh, lovely, elegant, with rose petal, plum, tobacco, leather, damp leaves, herbs, pepper, coffee and black tea characters. Earthy overtones, melted tannins; palate is juicy with red and blue fruit characters and warmth on the finish.

**2001 DRINK/HOLD** Dark ruby. Dense, yet expressive and savory, with underlying dark black and blue fruit.

Chocolate, tobacco, dried herbs, rose petals, sage, cedar, menthol, cassis, cinnamon, salted caramel, leather, and crushed charcoal with top notes of violet and lilac. Lifted, pretty, and silky, The wines all demonstrate the Spottswoode trademarks of quiet confidence and signature balance.

with a sweet, elegant, cohesive palate and firm tannins. Classic Spottswoode, classic aged Cabernet. Has held up beautifully and looks to have a long life ahead.

**2002 DRINK/HOLD** Dark ruby red. Enticing and expressive, with currant, blueberry cream, candied cassis, brown sugar, kirsch, marzipan, forest floor and graphite. A vibrant palate that follows the nose—round, mouth-filling and broad, with an elegant, long silky finish and acid and tannin in perfect balance. High-toned with a fresh core, dense and savory. Showing beautifully.

**2003 DRINK/HOLD** Deep tawny red. Expressive and dynamic, ripe and savory, with lots of intensity. Complex, inviting nose of baked plum, strawberry and cherry, with cinnamon, milk chocolate, spice, fresh hay, brown sugar and butterscotch, sea salt, leather, tobacco, and warm stone. Big, mouthcoating tannins, very well balanced. A hint of sweetness. Good weight. Elegant and pretty, with great texture. **2004 DRINK/HOLD** Dark ruby red. Ripe, showy and rich, conveying a sense of sweetness. High-toned, with concentrated aromas of strawberry/ cherry pie, chocolate, caramel, rumcake, Christmas spice, and baked plum, balanced by hints of black tea, dried flowers, and graphite. A dense core. The ripe, red fruits carry forward through the voluptuous, yet structured palate. Lifted spice and acidity, wonderful texture. Dynamic, lingering, flashy.

**2005** DRINK/HOLD Magenta with a brick-red rim. Initially a more brooding, reserved nose, but opens up beautifully in the glass. A lovely medley of earth and fruit characters. Everything from warm strawberry and vanilla to pine and forest floor notes, baking spice to tar and tobacco leaves, black pepper to plum balsamic, cherry compote to



sea salt. Expansive, dynamic, and dense. Nice texture, good balance; lifted acidity gives the wine structure and depth. An enticing bowl of ingredients, showing wonderfully.

There is typicity in all of the wines; they reflect classic Napa Cabernet characters; some vintages reminded me of older Mouton.

**2006 HOLD** Tawny red. More herbal, earthy notes dominate—olive, pine, roasted hazelnut, leather, tar, menthol, white pepper, tea, freshly turned earth, with a rich, chocolatey dense core and some red fruit characters—pomegranate and strawberry as well as plum. Structured, firm tannins, spicy oak, a bit tight. Nice texture, a hint of dustiness, long savory finish. Wants time.

**2007 HOLD** Opaque ruby. Dark, plush and intense. Sweet cassis, red fruit concentrate, baked candied apple, brown sugar, sage, and manzanita, a hint of salt spray and briar as well as tea leaf and crushed stone. Fresh and juicy. Great weight on the balanced, broad, velvety palate, while a bit tannic and tight at this tasting. Great structure, lifted acidity. Lovely texture and purity. Asks for time. **2008 HOLD** Opaque ruby. Dense and rich. Inky dense core of baked blue and black fruit, layered with flowers and notes of caramel, chocolate, pepper, minerals and fireplace ash, and black olive. Rich and round, yet boasts substantial backbone and tannins. Warm, lingering finish. Great balance, velvety texture. High-toned, fresh and juicy. Showy, a crowd pleaser, fooled some of us into thinking it was the 2007.

**2009 HOLD** Opaque ruby purple. Very ripe and warm, with a jammy impression. Big impact, with demonstrative forward fruit. Black cherry, cranberry-raspberry caramel pie, cinnamon, and light notes of mint, dust, and cassis. Effortless and fresh. Fleshy and broad, but with bright acidity, svelte tannins, an elegant mid-palate and a long, juicy finish. Showy and rich.



**2010 HOLD** Opaque dark ruby. Vibrant, pretty, big and deep, yet tightly held—the nose is somewhat restrained. Youthful fruit, more red than blue, is augmented by spice, anise, sage, mint, cola, chalk dust, graphite, and flowers. A sweet core. Lifted acidity, freshness and dancing tannins. Silky, light and elegant, lightly dusty, yet mouth-coating. Texturally generous, structurally serious and savory. Stellar, yet wants time as it is in a slightly closed phase.

The volume is turned up in terms of intensity of fruit, but the wines are still beautifully balanced, hitting both the treble and bass notes.

**2011 HOLD** Dark purple. Youthful, vibrant, lively, and pretty. Intriguing, high-toned blue and black fruit, with attractive sage and herb underpinnings. Fresh, with graphite and blackberry, cedar and clove. Nice minerality and a cool stone quality. Roasted nuts, passion fruit, and pepper jelly. Slightly angular, yet fine tannins and toasty wood characters, with both juicy and herbal notes on the palate. Soft, nice balance, great energy. Still tightly wound—asks for time.



**2012 HOLD** Opaque purple. Youthful intensity, a big bowl of blue and black fruit, with baking spices, cream pie, chocolate, and toffee. Hightoned floral notes, almost like liquid flowers. Hints of tobacco, clove, and toast. Explosive sweetness and structure. Youthful, grippy palate. Great balance, length and density, generous creamy mouthfeel. Elegant. We loved this wine! If we were assigning points, this would be Dan's 100-pointer. Everyone agreed: a great deal of "Yum Factor."

## **VISIT OUR ESTATE**

n an era of bustling Napa Valley tasting rooms, the historic grounds of St. Helena's Spottswoode Estate Vineyard & Winery are a rare gem. While the highlight of a visit is to savor Spottswoode's iconic Cabernet Sauvignon and our equally acclaimed Sauvignon Blanc and Lyndenhurst, guests also enjoy learning about our estate's rich history as they walk past the vineyard and through the As our way of thanking beautiful gardens of Mary Novak's majestic Victorian home, depicted on the Spottswoode wine label. When guests return to the winery, the tour continues in our pre-Prohibition stone cellar and our modern winery facility. Tours conclude in our welcoming tasting room with its high windows looking out towards some of the estate's oldest oak trees-a memorable part of

Spottswoode's 90-minute tour and tasting experience.

our special Spott ON! and TOP SPOTT! customers, we waive tour fees when you visit. Please inquire about unique TOP SPOTT! experiences when you make your reservation.

And just to let you know, a Tesla charging station is now available for our visitors!



#### BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

We host a limited number of guests each weekday, making the Spottswoode tour one of Napa Valley's most coveted reservations. To make an appointment, please telephone us at 707/963-0134 or email tours@spottswoode.com. We recommend planning four to six weeks in advance; your credit card will hold your reservation. The winery is closed on weekends and major holidays. We look forward to seeing you! Like the wines themselves, a visit to Spottswoode is an elegant and memorable experience.



1902 Madrona Avenue ST. Helena, California 94574 www.spottswoode.com www.facebook.com/SpottswoodeWinery

# SINCE 1882

State Mart

"ESMERALDA" 1882–1906 George & Catherine Schonewald Family

"STONEHURST" 1906–1908 Joseph Bliss Family

"LYNDENHURST" 1908–1910 Dr. George Allen Family "SPOTTSWOODE" 1910–1972 Mrs. Albert (Susan) Spotts & Descendants: Florence & Earl Holmes Constance Holmes Price

"SPOTTSWOODE" 1972-PRESENT Novak Family