

SAN SABA VINEYARDS

2006 Bocage Merlot



About San Saba

Located at the foot of the Santa Lucia Highlands in Monterey's historic Salinas Valley, San Saba produces limited quantities of fine Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Merlot from our cool climate, 70-acre estate. Our San Saba label - we also produce wines under the Bocage label - features grapes from the best blocks on our property. Hand harvested, hand sorted, gently pressed and aged in the finest oak barrels, these wines are noteworthy for their structure, purity and intensity. Bocage wines use all estate grown grapes and are styled to focus on the fruit of the grape. San Saba Vineyards was founded by Mark and Barbara Lemmon in 1975.

Vintage

The 2006 growing season was one for the record books. Spring started with the most consecutive rainy days ever noted and growth was about a month behind until the Summer heat started and we had record high days with little cooling in the evening. The extended heat wave brought growth up to a normal schedule but Fall was so cool that the flavors took forever to develop and Harvest was the latest it has ever been.

Winemaking

Each section of our vineyard was carefully followed for changes in flavor and ripeness to ensure that we only picked fruit at its best. We brought the hand picked and sorted fruit to the winery early in the morning and destemmed directly to tank with 75% whole berries. The must was pumped over once a day until indigenous yeast began fermenting and then commercial yeast was added to the tanks. After inoculation, aerative pump-overs were done twice a day until dryness and then the must was drained and gently pressed. After the first racking, the wine was aged with a combination of French and American oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

Juicy blackberry pie! This wine is full with ripe red and black fruit characters of plum, black cherry, and berries. The new oak shows in the vanilla and spice of nutmeg and cinnamon. All those flavors are supported by great structure and acidity that completes the long finish leaving you wanting more.

Technical Information

Vintage:	2006
Appellation:	Monterey
Composition:	100% estate grown Merlot
Oak:	40% new and 40% 2 year French and American oak
Alcohol:	14.4%
pH:	3.56
TA:	0.60 g/100ml
Case Production:	3,600