



2006 HOWELL MOUNTAIN
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
NAPA VALLEY

HISTORY

Built of stone in the late 1800's, the La Jota winery tells the story of Napa Valley's winemaking history. Here, Frederick Hess, a Swiss immigrant, founded the La Jota Vineyard Co. With vines planted in the 1890s, he made wines that won medals in the Paris Exposition of 1900 and brought fame to Howell Mountain. The winery's name comes from its location on the 1844 Mexican land grant, Rancho La Jota. The four estate wines capture the intense fruit and mineral complexity of La Jota's unique, cool-climate vineyard site.

VINEYARD

All of the grapes were grown on our La Jota vineyard estate, located high upon a volcanic Howell Mountain plateau overlooking Napa Valley. Our unique spot, surrounded by pines, firs, oak and madrone trees, is characterized by cool-climate terroir and winds coming up the canyon. We choose a selection of our softer-textured Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard blocks to give this wine earlier approachability, while capturing full expression of La Jota's cool-climate terroir. The Merlot was chosen from a small block on the Meadow Vineyard, and the Petit Verdot was harvested from a small planting near the winery.

WINEMAKING

We hand-harvested the grapes into small, 30-pound boxes to prevent crushing, and then brought them to our winery for hand sorting. After destemming and light crushing, the must was cold soaked for gentle color, flavor and tannin extraction. To bridle the "mountain tannins", Chris added small amounts of oxygen into the wine with three "splashing pump-overs" a day during the primary fermentation in stainless steel tanks. In-barrel malolactic fermentation rounded the acidity and softly integrated the vanillin character of the new French oak barrels. To further enhance the wine's elegance, we racked the wine five times during its 22 months of barrel aging.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

"The 2006 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon exhibits rich, mountain-fruit intensity. Opulent aromas with a rich nose of cassis, nuances of wild strawberry and forest-earth. A small blend of Merlot, capped by some Petit Verdot provide broad tannins and spice. Black currant fruits, plum and blueberries give this wine a rich and full bodied flavor."

CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER, WINEMAKER

TECHNICAL NOTES

BLEND COMPOSITION 88% Cabernet Sauvignon 10% Merlot 2% Petit Verdot	VINEYARD INFORMATION La Jota Estate Vineyard	HARVEST DATES October 14 through October 26, 2006	TYPE OF FERMENTATION Stainless Steel tanks with three pump-overs per day	LENGTH OF MACERATION 18 to 20 days including cold soak
BARREL AGING 22 months in French Oak (90% new)	ALCOHOL BY VOLUME 14.5%	WINE pH 3.50	WINE ACIDITY 0.58 g/100ml	CASES PRODUCED 940