



2002 Hess Collection Mountain Cuvée

The Hess Collection Mountain Cuvée is made from grapes grown on Mount Veeder. Exceeding 1900 feet, these vines are at our highest elevations. Farmed to reflect the optimum quality of grapes that each vineyard block can produce, these estate vineyards receive vine by vine attention throughout the year. As part of The Hess Collection tier, this wine represents the exceptional quality and heritage that is Donald Hess' vision of mountain wines.

Blend

60% Cabernet Sauvignon
16% Syrah
14% Merlot
6% Malbec
4% Cabernet Franc

Release Date

January 2005

Appellation

**Mount Veeder,
Napa Valley**

Total Acid

0.60g/100ml

Alcohol

14.5%

pH

3.75

HARVEST

Fruit was harvested at an average Brix of 25° with the separate blocks and varieties picked from October through November.

WINEMAKING

- All harvest decisions are made on a block by block basis depending on the maturity levels of the fruit, which the winemakers determine in the vineyards.
- The grapes were hand picked in the early morning and gently destemmed before crushing into tanks and open top fermenters.
- After 2-3 weeks of fermentation, with juice sprinkled over the skins regularly for gentle and complete extraction, the wine was pressed into French oak barrels for malolactic and aging.
- The blend was aged 18 months in French oak barrels, 50% new and 50% in selected second and third fill chateau barrels from several premium coopers.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

The 2002 Hess Collection Mountain Cuvée is the premiere release of our proprietary blend of estate grown Bordeaux and Rhone varieties. This wine reflects the many different terroirs of our steep Mount Veeder slopes. After over a quarter of a century farming Mount Veeder we have discovered which varieties excel in each unique vineyard block with their varying altitudes, exposures, soil, and micro-climatic conditions. We were thus led to the Mountain Cuvée by listening to the mountain.

A Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah blend, the wine is both powerful, yet elegant. The lifted aroma profile of floral notes, red cherry, vanilla, spice and cedar is followed by a second layer of black licorice, wild berry, and pepper. These aromas follow through in the flavors of bright red fruit, spice and a fleshy round palate integrated with French oak and a satin finish. Enjoy this new release - a true expression of wine from mountain vineyards.

Director of Winemaking
Dave Guffy



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