



MONTICELLO VINEYARDS
CORLEY FAMILY NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE 2005

CORLEY

Proprietary Red Wine

Small winery; Big reputation. The CORLEY FAMILY grows and produces 15,000 cases of exclusively Napa Valley wines designated as MONTICELLO VINEYARDS, CORLEY RESERVE and our CORLEY Proprietary Red Wine. We grow Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah on five small vineyard sites in the Oak Knoll, Yountville, Rutherford and St. Helena appellations of Napa Valley.

Vinification

With the exception of the co-fermented lots, which served as the foundation for the blend, all of the lots were fermented and sent to barrel individually. As is my tendency with this wine each year, the blend was put together in stages over the course of the barrel-aging process. Incremental blending can be thought of as putting together a piece of music. Typically you start with a base melody or rhythm, upon which the rest of the song is based. That's your catchy riff - and to that you layer the rest of your jam down. The co-fermented lot of Cabernet Franc and Merlot was the riff that I jammed to.

Tasting Notes

Continuing along my musical theme from above, this wine's opening stanza is a medley of blueberry, blackberry, floral and sweet oak tones. The chorus is lovely, the tannins laying down a solid rhythmic bass line, while the berry aromatics and dark fruit flavors entertain with an "echo" jam evoking some of the old-school boogie-woogie piano jams of old. The finish is sweet, lingering and smoky - like the last song of the evening in a downtown jazz club. - Chris Corley, Winemaker

Vineyards

Cabernet Franc (56%)

*Home Ranch Vineyard and Knollwood Vineyard - Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District
Clone X and Clone 332*

Merlot (28%)

Knollwood - Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District - Clone 181

Syrah (10%)

Knollwood Vineyard, Napa Valley - Oak Knoll District, ENTAV Clone 470

Cabernet Sauvignon (6%)

*State Lane Vineyard - Napa Valley, Yountville, Clone 337
Tietjen Vineyard on Niebaum Lane - Napa Valley, Rutherford, 'Cope' Clone
Yewell Vineyard on Ehlers Lane - Napa Valley, St Helena, Clone 337*
