



AMERICA'S GRAND WINE ESTATE

*Rubicon Estate*



## 2006 CABERNET FRANC

### ABOUT THE WINE

Our Cabernet Franc expresses its varietal pedigree with top note aromas of tobacco leaf, sandalwood and red cherry with an elegant, velvety texture. It is an individual expression of classic Rutherford terroir. Rubicon Estate wines are made entirely from grapes grown on our property in western Rutherford at the foot of Mount St. John. Each Estate wine expresses deep color, distinctive structure, and rich flavors that cannot be duplicated anywhere else.

### THE VINEYARDS

Cabernet Franc is planted in four of our Estate vineyards. Each vineyard lot demonstrates a slightly different flavor profile that, when blended together, creates layers of flavors and textures. The Gio vineyard contributes a plush texture with cherry and chocolate flavors. The fruit from Gate and La Lomita vineyards provides the wine's deep color and dense core of blackberry character. Lastly, the Cohn vineyard delivers the classic characteristics of Cabernet Franc—allspice and tobacco leaves.

### VINTAGE

The 2006 vintage experienced seesaw extremes of temperature and rainfall. The year started out with storms and wide-spread flooding. Due to Rubicon Estate's outstanding location on the Rutherford Bench, our well drained soils were unaffected by either.

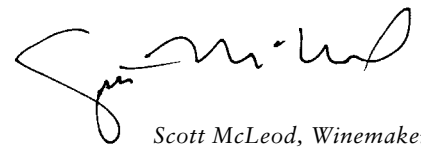
However, the cold wet weather persisted, with record-breaking rainfall until May. This vast amount of rain required us to leave on our edible cover crop until the end of June, to pull water out of our soils. Then we were hit with a July that saw some of the hottest weather in the history of Napa Valley. August and September were cooler than average, which lengthened the season and allowed the grapes to develop interesting flavors and nuances. October provided ideal conditions for the late stages of ripening, with warm, dry weather and temperatures reaching into the mid to high 80s. After all the dramatic weather earlier in the year, Cabernet Franc was able to ripen fully.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

The grapes selected for our single-varietal Cabernet Franc are handled differently than those blended into Rubicon, the Estate's flagship red wine. We start the process in a similar way: grapes are hand picked and hand sorted, crushed, and the must is sorted again before being put in 5 to 6-ton Taransaud fermenters. However, wines destined for the single-varietal Cabernet Franc are fermented at a lower temperature and macerated for shorter times. The result is a fruitier style with softer tannins that captures the charming, delicious, and precious side of Cabernet Franc.

### TASTING NOTES

Our 2006 Cabernet Franc exhibits the pungent, sweet scent of allspice, clove, tobacco leaves and red cherries. Its plush palate resonates with rich, ripe blackberry flavors and intriguing spice accents. Soft, silky tannins add to the wine's elegance.

  
Scott McLeod, Winemaker

APPELLATION:	RUTHERFORD, CA
BLEND:	84% CABERNET FRANC, 15% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 1% SYRAH
VINEYARD:	24% GATE, 18% LOMITA, 16% GIO, 14% COHN, 11% BRIDGE
BARREL REGIMEN:	18 MONTHS FRENCH OAK; 60% NEW, 40% 1-YEAR-OLD
CASE PRODUCTION:	1,705
ACID: 0.493 G/100ML	PH: 3.974
ALCOHOL:	14.5%
RELEASED:	AUGUST 2008
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:	\$56.00