



Vineyards

“The single most important factor in winemaking is the vineyard. The confluence of all the variables affecting the grape vines ultimately determines the quality of the wine. You simply cannot make great wine from mediocre grapes.”

-Bill Arbios

The Arbios Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon hails from the highest and northernmost vineyard in Sonoma County’s Alexander Valley. The elevation of the vineyard runs between 2000 to 3000 feet.

On the summit where these vines grow, there is little life with the exception of stunted grass and scrub brush. The fog that enshrouds the valley below rarely reaches these heights. The thin, impoverished soil and scant water threaten the life of the grapes every season. Yet it is this very struggle for life in the intense sunshine and impoverished soil that results in a wine with a bright balance and incredible character and depth.

In any given day there will be a 12-degree temperature difference between the valley floor and this vineyard, allowing the grapes to mature at a slower rate, resulting in darkly colored, highly flavored fruit picked at lower sugar and with lower alcohol. In direct contrast to the intense heat, the days’ cooler temperatures lead to a wine that has more of the preferred green olive flavors without excessive jammy characteristics.

Even though Arbios Cellars produces 100 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, there is a subtle element of blending that is a result of the varied microclimates within the vineyard. With elevation varying from 2000 to 3000 feet and with the hillside vineyards facing in several different directions, the grapes ripen differently providing an array of flavor profiles.

Arbios has the luxury of sourcing fruit from 25 acres grown on some of the few remaining mature Cabernet Sauvignon vines in Sonoma County. (The average age of the vines is 30 years.) While these vines have a low yield of 2.5 tons per acre, much lower than many of the valley floor vineyards, they produce the kind of fruit desired for the Arbios Cellars wines.

www.ArbiosCellars.com

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ARBIOS

In addition to the quality grapes that Arbios Cellars sources, it has now developed a 21-acre parcel alongside this property. The Arbios Vineyard is planted entirely of Cabernet Sauvignon grapes. The first fruit from these vines was harvested in October 2004 and will be used in the 2004 vintage. Bill selected a number of Cabernet Sauvignon clones for the vineyard according to the vagaries of the terrain. Since he selected the clones as a winemaker not a farmer, Arbios will never have high yields from this vineyard. The poor soil best supports relatively low yielding vines, but the vines have small berries with intense rich color and lovely flavor.

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