



THE GRADE  
CELLARS

## THE GRADE 2008



Variety:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Appellation:	Napa Valley   Calistoga AVA
Proprietors:	Brenda Mixson & Tom Thornton
Winemaker:	Rudy Zuidema
Release Date:	September 2011
Release Price:	\$80 retail per 750ml
Vineyard:	Winfield Vineyard (100% Estate Grown) Old Toll Road, Calistoga, CA
Harvest Date:	September 16 & 18, 2008
Vines:	Block 1 – Clone 7/Rootstock 110R Blocks 2 & 4 – Clone 337/Rootstock 101-14
Cooperage:	100% French Oak from Treuil and Jarnac (40% new)
Aging:	24 months
Panel:	14.3% Alcohol   3.64 pH   0.59 g/100ml Titratable Acid   0.64 g/100ml Volatile Acidity
Production:	270 cases

**Vintage Notes:** *The 2008 vintage was plenty challenging with the frost, rain, wind and heat occurring within the early weeks of the season and during the delicate bud break and bloom. These weather events reduced the size of the potential crop, but ultimately did not affect its quality. Even in the context of this reduced crop, we were compelled to thin the clusters – and then thin again – to achieve uniformity of balance and consistency in the vineyard’s fruit. This is the kind of situation in which the word “estate” is critical. As grower and producer, the degree of control we can exercise over the vineyard is vital to the vintage’s success. It’s a luxury!*

**Tasting Notes:** *The 2008 vintage is harmonious and complex with a very exotic nose including bittersweet cocoa, anise-laced currant, cedar, fig sage and loamy earth. On the palate, there are luscious notes of maple, molasses and bright black cherry mingling with the long, fine tannins, chocolate earth and cedar. This vintage stays juicy all the way through its sensuous finish!*

*“be local...enter ‘the grade’”*

Ροβερτ Λουϊς Στεπενσον