



CHATEAU MONTELENA
ESTABLISHED 1882

2005 Montelena Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Notes from Former Winemaker, Bo Barrett, January 2009

INTRODUCTION

The 2005 growing season can be generalized as long, slow, and mild, but all the fun came in the month-to-month variations.

VINTAGE WEATHER

We saw cool temperatures and an exceptionally wet spring, especially the month of May. June was mild, with some rain. July brought much needed steady warmth, but no major heat spikes, and continued into August. September started off cool, which was great for fruit ripening. At the end of the month, there was a heat wave, just in time to push the Cabernet to full maturity.

Notes from Current Winemaker, Matt Crafton, March 2019

NOSE

A total knockout; 10 years after release and the aromas are really hitting their stride. The freshness is palpable and leads with ripe blackberry, fig, and plenty of jam. A few minutes in the glass reveal the more subtle, secondary notes. These tend to be more spicy in nature and lean towards cinnamon and clove along with a touch of mocha. Hidden beneath is a beautiful seam of dried violets that's very characteristic of the Montelena Estate and is well worth the patience.

PALATE

Exceedingly youthful and vibrant, the palate opens with bright, fresh raspberries, black tea, and candied strawberries. With bottle age comes density and texture, and there's plenty of both to enjoy as the tannins are quite silky and supple. Dynamic layers of baking spices linger throughout, a fitting contrast to the latent acidity of the vintage, which weaves in and out of the foreground lending both balance and finesse.

FINISH

The length of the finish is as impressive as it is expressive. Briary, toasty, and dense with underpinnings of espresso bean and mint, there's a beautiful nutty character that gently hints of the wine's true age but at the same time lends a sublimity that can't be found in any other way.

Technical Information

HARVEST DATES

September 30 – October 27

ALCOHOL

14.2%

BLEND

98% Cabernet Sauvignon
2% Cabernet Franc

BARREL AGING

18 months, 100% French oak,
28% new

BOTTLING DATE

August 2007

RELEASE DATE

Spring 2009

WINEMAKER

Bo Barrett