



July 1985

As Stag's Leap Vineyards flourish, our Cabernet Sauvignons are taking on additional complexities. The 1979 Cask 23 gives evidence of the vineyard's maturity in its restrained, self-confident style. This is another of the superb 'reserve' bottlings from this outstanding vineyard. You will remember that the Cask 23 designation is not used every year. 1979 was our eighth year of production and the fourth year of the Cask bottlings. Of additional interest for this release, you should be aware that in the 1979 season, most California Cabernets were reduced in complexity because the fairly early rains had a diluting effect on the grape skins. However, because of the favorable location of the fruit that went into this wine, the grapes were harvested at full maturity before the rain.

The color of the wine itself reveals this favorable circumstance: it is deep, undiminished and attractive. Rich, dark, cedary overtones in the fruit of the nose carry forward this impression to the lively, textured, Cabernet spiciness of flavors. There is a wonderful interplay here between a certain austerity in the structure and the vibrance of the layered flavors. This creates a palate interest which continues to the completion of the long resonant finish. The wine has outstanding balance of acid/tannin: its overall impression is one of elegance on a substantial scale.

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