



# *Cline Cellars*

## *2005 Small Berry Mourvèdre*

### *Contra Costa County*

**Harvest Date:** September 5  
**Brix at Harvest:** 25.5  
**Final pH:** 3.51  
**Release Date:** May, 2007

**Alcohol:** 14.5%  
**Total Acidity:** .65g/100ml  
**Residual Sugar:** .42%  
**UPC:** 098652 610043

#### **Vineyards**

The 100 plus year old Small Berry Mourvèdre vineyard is a small block that consistently produces one of our most complex and concentrated Mourvèdre wines. The vines were originally planted on their own roots, which make this one of California's most historic vineyards.

We dry-farm these ancient, head-pruned vines continuing a practice that was employed by the Italian and Portuguese immigrants who planted this vineyard. The wine exemplifies the unique character of the varietal while showcasing the elegant flavors that are contributed by the phylloxera resistant sandy soils - described as our singular Oakley terroir. The proximity of this vineyard to Eucalyptus trees also contributes to Small Berry's unique signature.

#### **Fermentation and Aging**

In 2005, grapes from the Small Berry vineyard block were harvested at high natural sugar levels and treated gently in the cellar to emphasize the explosive fruit characteristics of the block. The fruit was almost entirely de-stemmed and lightly crushed, with a large proportion of whole berries remaining in the must. Fermentation occurred at moderate temperatures in stainless steel tanks. The wine was pressed after going dry and then racked to another settling tank before being put down to barrels.

The wine is aged for 15 months in a combination of new and used French oak barrels with medium toast levels.

#### **Winemakers Comments**

This vineyard has always shown intense concentration of flavors due, in part, to the miniscule yields that we receive. Tobacco, plum, and eucalyptus-mint dominate this wine. With plenty of flesh and a firm balanced structure of acid and fine-grained tannins, our Cline Cellars 2005 Small Berry Mourvèdre is delicious now and will age beautifully for many years to come.