



# ROCKET SCIENCE

## 2005 PROPRIETARY RED

**VINEYARD** ✂ First planted to grapes in 1982, the Caldwell Vineyard boasts all of the essentials needed to grow consistently great fruit. The soils are shallow (two and a half feet deep), reddish brown in color, low in nutrients and laced with volcanic ash and fist-sized rocks. The vineyard has a northwestern exposure, moderating daytime temperatures and extending the warmth of the sun into the late afternoon. At 500 feet above sea level, the site sits above the daily fog that regularly blankets the region.

**WINEMAKING** ✂ Earnest assessments of the grapes for physiological ripeness begins as the sugars reach 25 degrees brix. Grape samples are then evaluated daily for color, aroma, and flavor of the skins and juices. The decision is made to pick all or part of a vineyard block when ripeness is considered optimal. The primary fermentation is in small stainless steel tanks and 1-ton open-top bins. Depending on the grape variety and taste, an extended maceration may last 21 to 55 days before the young wine is pressed and transferred to small French oak barrels for aging.

**TASTING NOTES** ✂ Kudos NASA! This IS "Rocket Science." Dark garnet with aromas of black cherries, and other ripely intense black fruits, root beer and cherry cola, black pepper, herbs, sweet tobacco, cardamom and a whiff of wild sweaty boar lead to flavors of macerated black cherries, briny olives, espresso and black pepper. Fresh with wonderful acidity and balanced tannins. A long, sweet velvety finish.



**Composition:**

33% Syrah  
33% Cabernet Sauvignon  
25% Merlot  
9% Cabernet Franc  
9% Petit Verdot  
9% Tannat

**Appellation:**

Napa Valley

**Vineyard:**

Caldwell Vineyard

**Winemaker:**

Philippe Melka

**Aging:**

18 months in French Oak barrels

**Alcohol:**

14.4%

**Production:**

1,600 cases

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