2011 Pritchard Hill Estate Vineyard
Cabernet Sauvignon

WINEMAKER PHILLIP CORALLO-TITUS

THE WINE

The most sought-after wine in our portfolio, this limited-production Cabernet Sauvignon represents the pinnacle of Chappellet winemaking, and embodies the elegant power and complexity of Pritchard Hill winegrowing. Like the great Bordeaux wines that first inspired Donn Chappellet, this wine is crafted by blending Cabernet Sauvignon with other classic Bordeaux varietals. The wine was aged for 20 months in 100% new French oak. Grown on our rocky, mountainside vineyards, our Cabernets have consistently displayed an ability to age for several decades.

GROWING SEASON & HARVEST

2011 was an extremely cold year, where our unique location and four decades of Napa Valley winegrowing experience paid great dividends. Though yields were already relatively low, we aggressively thinned early in the season, doing as many as two to three fruit drops throughout the vineyards to lighten the crop loads. Due to our thin, well-draining mountain soils and cover crops, we had no significant issues with excess moisture. As a result, even though the cool weather delayed all stages of development, our grapes benefited from ample hangtime.

TASTING NOTES

Our patience was rewarded in 2011, as our Cabernet Sauvignon achieved full ripeness in the last weeks of October, yielding a wine that seamlessly combines a classic mountain structure with elegance and finesse. On the nose, vivid aromas of blueberry and cassis are underscored by notes of dark chocolate, anise and cedar, as well as hints of roasted coffee and baking spice from aging in new French oak. The palate is rich and impeccably balanced, with supple tannins and a velvety mouthfeel, all supporting radiant layers of cherry, blackberry and spice that continue to unfold throughout a long, lingering finish.

WINE STATISTICS
October 15 to October 27, 2011
24.2-24.6° Brix at Harvest
14.5% Alcohol

TA .54 g/100 ml
pH 3.86

80% Cabernet Sauvignon
12% Malbec
8% Petit Verdot

CHAPPELLET