



## 2005 Estate Syrah

**Appellation:** Napa Valley–Spring Mountain District

**Vineyards:** Miravalle

**Clones:** Beaucastel and Chapoutier

**Varietal:** 100% Syrah

**Aging:** 18 Months

**Bottled:** April 12, 2007

**Alcohol:** 14.9%

**Production:** 320 Cases



### Winemaker Notes

A heady impression of blackberry, black cherry, sweet chocolate and smoke with underlying notes of tar and spice. The sensual nature of this wine, its rich, dark fruit and chewy tannins leave a satisfying impression of roguish elegance. If Rhett Butler were a wine, this would be it.

### 2005 Vintage

The 2005 vintage gave us graceful wines of stature and quality. In many ways, it bears a marked resemblance to the bountiful 1997 vintage. The growing season began with plentiful springtime rainfall and cool temperatures that slowed veraison. Summer temperatures were very warm with a few heat spikes in July, followed by moderate weather through November, allowing for slow and even ripening. Harvest began on September 20 – more than a month later than 2004 – and concluded with a final day of picking on November 8.

### Spring Mountain Vineyard

Spring Mountain Vineyard is an 850-acre estate on the eastern slopes of Spring Mountain. Over 225 acres of the estate are planted to vine, representing 135 distinct hillside vineyard blocks with many soil types, exposures, and microclimates. Originally four individual 19<sup>th</sup> century Napa Valley vineyards, Miravalle, Alba, Chevalier and La Perla are now one vineyard producing estate bottled wines. A substantial portion of the vineyard is planted in densities of over 4,000 vines per acre. Because of the diverse and challenging terrain, the vines are trained to the ancient *gobelet* form, a vertical trellising method invented in an earlier millennium by the Romans. Growing primarily Bordeaux grape varieties, the vineyard yields distinctive mountain wines that consistently display concentration, elegance and longevity. The quintessential wine from the estate is *Elivette*.