

## 2006 Estate Syrah

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

**Vineyard:** Miravalle

**Clones:** Beaucastel and Chapoutier

**Varietal:** 100% Syrah

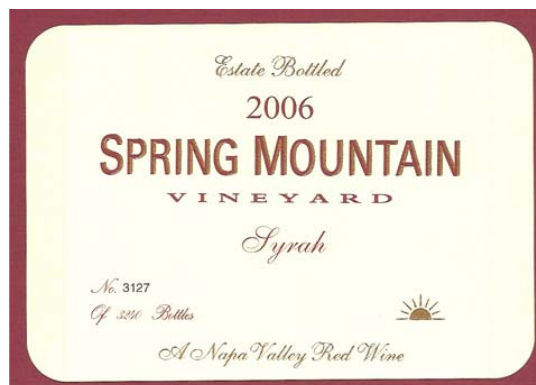
**Aging:** 14 Months  
50% new and 50% neutral French oak

**Bottled:** February 6, 2008

**Alcohol:** 14.8%

**Production:** 270 Cases

**Retail Price:** \$55.00



### Winemaker Notes

Toasty smoke and black pepper, along with cherry and berry aromas, dominate an expressive nose. On the palate the attack is soft and full, with notes of mocha and baking spices surrounding bright cherry and raspberry fruit. The long finish is rich and layered. Drink 2010 – 2016.

### 2006 Vintage

The 2006 vintage began with the wettest weather recording in St. Helena's history! Our vineyards received a whopping 70 inches of rainfall in December and January. Budbreak occurred on the late side, near the third week of April. Warm springtime temperatures allowed rapid shoot growth and helped the vines catch up. Bloom and veraison were also on the late side and confirmed a later than normal harvest. Summer temperatures mimicked 2005 with an average June and a blistering July. August and September were extremely pleasant with below normal temperatures. Heat in October was just what we needed to finally ripen the crop and make this a stellar vintage. Harvest began on September 20<sup>th</sup> and finished on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

### 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*.