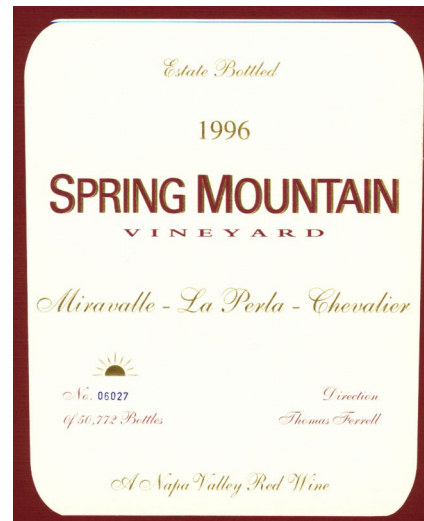



SPRING MOUNTAIN
VINEYARD

1996 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation:	Napa Valley–Spring Mountain District
Vineyards:	Miravalle, La Perla, Chevalier
Varietals:	La Perla 64%, Chevalier 29%, Alba 4%, Miravalle 3%
Aging:	22 Months in 100% New French Oak
Production:	4,231 Cases
Retail Price:	\$95.00



Winemaker Notes

The wine has a deep, bright, ruby red color with full depth. The aroma is fragrant with fruit aromas that lean to black current and plum, with toasty oak adding a cedar tone to cassis. Some tasters have found an aroma similar to mint and others anise. The wine displays a round, full entry with soft tannins. Evolution is rich yet velvety. Finish is firm, but silky and aging well.

1996 Vintage

Unseasonably warm winter coupled with lots of moisture brought on an early bud break. This was followed by a fairly cool spring, and intermittent rain during the May bloom period causing some reduction in crop. What started as a cool summer in June turned into a warm one with four heat spells in July and August that brought early veraison and hastened the ripening process. A dramatic cooling trend in late August, continued into September slowing sugar development and allowing flavors to catch up. Harvest proceeded steadily with an ideal combination of cool nights, early morning fog, and warm afternoons.

Spring Mountain Vineyard

Originally four individual historic Napa Valley properties, Miravalle, La Perla, Alba, and Chevalier have now been combined to create an 850 acre estate of forest and vineyard on the eastern slopes of Spring Mountain overlooking the small town of Saint Helena. Over 225 acres of the estate are planted to vine, creating 135 separate hillside vineyard blocks each with its own unique soil, exposure, and microclimate. The vineyard is planted in densities of 4,000 vines per acre and trained to the ancient gobelet form, a vertical trellising method that was invented in an earlier millennium by the Romans.