

## 1998 “Artist Series #7” Cabernet Sauvignon

Varietal composition  
100% cabernet sauvignon

Bottling date  
May 10 and 11, 2000

Alcohol  
13.9% by volume

Release date  
September 2000

Time in oak  
18 months

Production  
3,428 cases

This 1998 cabernet sauvignon was produced 100% from cabernet sauvignon grapes grown at Canoe Ridge vineyard, Champoux vineyard, Sagemoor vineyards above the Columbia River in southeastern Washington, and at Pepper Bridge vineyard in Walla Walla, Washington. All grapes were harvested by hand and were sorted prior to crush.

The 1998 vintage was a rather warm one for Washington and this cabernet sauvignon is a spectacular expression of fully mature cabernet from the Columbia Valley. In vintages such as 1998, we are able to work with physiologically mature fruit, which gives extreme ripeness and concentration to the wines. This cabernet was punched down and pumped over in small stainless steel tanks three or four times per day. Fermentation length varied between one and two weeks. After gentle pressing and racking, this wine was moved to new French chateau barrels (96%) and new American oak (4%) for aging. The wine was bottled unfinned and unfiltered on May 10 and 11, 2000.

This cabernet is integrated with spicy new oak, generous black fruits, great texture and a deep purple color. The wine is beautifully proportioned with a long finish of cassis, chocolate and toasted oak. This cabernet will benefit significantly with additional bottle age and will easily age for twelve to fifteen years with proper storage.

### About the Artist:

1998 Artist Series #7, 20” X 25” watercolor, Sally Augustiny Charlton, Chicago, Illinois. Sally Augustiny Charlton was born in Ohio and studied at the University of Michigan and The Chicago Academy. She was employed for 20 years at the J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency in Chicago. Sally was well known in the advertising community for the detail, color and life that she put into her illustrations. In her personal life, she was an accomplished watercolor artist. Sally passed away in 1998 and her good friend, the Art Director for the Auction of Northwest Wines, purchased this piece at her estate sale. It was the centerpiece of the 1998 Auction invitations and catalog and was acquired at that auction.

### Reviews:

#### Wine Enthusiast, Best of Year 2000

An intensive, deeply extracted wine with a powerful bouquet of blackberry jam, red-fruit preserves, and plenty of new oak. This wine screams “Drink me!” from the first sniff. It’s an 18-wheeler running down a steep grade. It explodes on the palate with a cloudburst of fruit, chocolate, smoke, oak, descending via soft, smooth tannins into a ripe, seductive, extended finish. 93 ( included in the Top 100 Wines of 2000)

#### Wine & Spirits, February 2001

A festive and elegant expression of Washington cabernet, this offers a red fruit cornucopia, a crisp and forward focus on fruit with no excess weight or ponderous density. This is cabernet in a bright and cheerful mode. It has a holiday spirit imbued through garlands of red and black currants, of ripe cranberries and gently scented herbs. The tannins deepen it to anise and cocoa, enriching the flavors as an integral part of the fruit, virtually invisible yet, along with the equally integrated and invisible acidity, providing the structure that will allow this wine to age beautifully. Sock it away for holiday feasts to come. 93

