



*“Mountain
vineyards,
classical
winemaking,
limited
production”*



LES PAVOTS VINEYARD

*Peter Michael Estate
High above Knights Valley
Eastern Sonoma County*

Planted: 1989

Cabernet Sauvignon 18 acres

Cabernet Franc 2 acres

Merlot 3 acres

Elevation: 1,500 – 1,800 feet

Soil: Rocky, volcanic-origin,
Rhyolite

Exposure: southerly

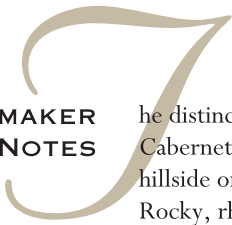
1996

LES PAVOTS

*Estate Cuvée of
Cabernet Sauvignon,
Merlot and
Cabernet Franc*



**WINEMAKER
NOTES**



he distinctive aromas and flavors of our proprietary blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot exhibit its hillside origin on the slopes of Mt. St. Helena in Knights Valley. Rocky, rhyolitic soils created through volcanic activity millennia ago contribute a mineral richness and add to the wine's complexity. Spanning 23 acres, Les Pavots ascends to an elevation of nearly 1800 feet. Merlot and Cabernet Franc grow on the cool upper slopes and Cabernet Sauvignon grows just below.

Grapes were handpicked in late October and then cold soaked in a holding tank for almost four days. Extended skin contact after fermentation contributed intense color extraction and soft, round tannins. Our 1996 Les Pavots was aged in small French oak barrels for 20 months. After being bottled in June 1998 this wine was aged for 10 months prior to release.

**TASTING
NOTES**

Aromas of cassis, blueberry, lavender and coffee interspersed with oak nuances of cedar and tobacco. Rich, ripe fruit impressions on the palate accentuated by silky, yet assertive tannins. The 1996 possesses a unique balance, full body, concentrated extract and a fine finish. The wine is ready for near term enjoyment and has the richness, extract and structure for five to seven more years of aging.

**WINE
INFORMATION**

Harvested: September 25 to October 11, 1996
74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 20% Merlot
Aged in 50% new Nevers oak barrels from Tonnellerie Taransaud
Bottled July 10 - 12, 1998
Alcohol: 14.2%, pH 3.62, TA 5.9 g/L
Production: 4001 cases 750ml bottles, 310 1.5L, and
42 3.0L bottles
Release date: March 1, 1999