



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2005 Origin

Production: 900 cases

Composition: 55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon

Vineyards: Beau Terre, Baker and Rocca

Appellation: Oak Knoll, Coombsville and Atlas Peak

Elevation: Valley floor (25 ft), foothills (800 ft), hillside (1200 ft)

Cooperage: 15 months in oak barrels (40% new oak, of which 10% was American)

Alc	pH	TA	VA	SO2	RS	Malic
14.81	3.59	0.6	0.06	34/98	1.73	0.13

Winemaker's Comments: Late rains, cool temperatures with fog, and no late season heat combined to make this a most challenging year. We really noticed this in our Oak Knoll vineyards, a cool climate area of Napa even in normal years. Though these vineyards did ripen up nicely, with final Brix in the high 25s and mid 26s, we did a 10% bleed on the Merlot to make sure we had some good intensity. The mountain vineyards came in on Halloween with rain just starting to fall.

Winemaker Alison Doran's Tasting notes:

Nose) Lovely dark raspberry and blackberry aroma, surrounded by coffee caramel notes and a little violet vanilla, linked to tannins, as it opens up

Palate) Deep dark and dignified entry with warm plum and blackberry flavors still supported with noticeable tannin. Though intense, it is not sweet, and seems younger in texture, probably because of its nice acidity.