2009 Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon
Napa Valley

Vineyards
We craft our Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon from four special blocks of vines – each planted to a
different clone – grown in the acclaimed Vine Hill Ranch in Napa Valley’s gently sloping western
benchlands near Oakville. We have purchased these grapes for over 30 years, and they have consistently
produced superb, long-lived wines. Each block is hand-harvested separately at night to preserve the
fruit’s fresh, pure character, and fermented and barrel-aged separately. After assessing the distinctive
personality of each lot, we blend them together to forge a uniquely complex and harmonious wine that
speaks eloquently of its provenance.

Vintage 2009
In 2009, plentiful spring rains in Napa Valley deferred the need for early irrigation, resulting in especially
small Cabernet Sauvignon berries with deeply concentrated flavors. Summer was consistently cool,
which allowed for slow, steady ripening and the parallel development of grape sugars and flavors,
resulting in superbly balanced wines. We harvested the grapes for our 2009 Vine Hill Cabernet
Sauvignon between September 28th and October 9th with an exemplary balance of ripe fruit flavors, supple
tannins and bright acidity.

Winemaking
Cakebread Cellars winemaker Julianne Laks employs traditional artisan winemaking techniques to
maximize the extraction of color, flavor and tannin from our Vine Hill Ranch fruit. After the grapes are
crushed, the juice from each lot is cold-soaked for 48 hours prior to initiating fermentation with a cultured
French yeast strain that enhances texture, depth and intensity. Once fermentation completes, the wines
enjoy an extended, three-week maceration on their skins to further extract color and flavor while
softening tannins. In all, the 2009 Vine Hill Cabernet Sauvignon spent 20 months aging in French oak
barrels, 48% new, before bottling in July, 2011.

Tasting Notes
Our 2009 Vine Hill Cabernet Sauvignon boasts a beautifully deep, dark ruby hue and characteristically
intense, youthfully brooding black fruit aromas complemented by wonderfully complex scents of earth,
slate, mineral, spice and cocoa. Dense, sinewy and immensely concentrated on the palate, it offers
extremely rich boysenberry, fig, wild blackberry, plum compote and cassis flavors accented by the
intriguing earth, mineral and spice tones that suffuse its long, flavor-packed finish. Although this classic
Napa Valley single-vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is wonderfully appealing now, its incredible depth,
length and intensity suggest it will develop beautifully in bottle for at least a decade.

Grape varieties: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vineyards: 100% Vine Hill Ranch, Oakville
Harvest dates: September 28 – October 9, 2009
Fermentation: 100% in stainless steel
Barrel aging: 20 months in French oak, 48% new
Alcohol: 14.8%
Total acidity: 0.64 g/100 ml
pH: 3.64
Bottled: July, 2011
Winemaker: Julianne Laks