



## SHADYBROOK — ESTATE —

### 2010 SHADYBROOK ESTATE MALBEC

One barrel (23 cases) produced

Alcohol by volume 14.2%

“This is a deep purple hued wine exhibiting concentrated aromas of black berry, molasses, minerals, Asian spice and juicy black plum. The palate is complex and deeply structured by firm tannins and showing a supple mouthfeel with the intense flavors of currant, earth, and black cherry accentuated by lively acidity so typical of the grape. The fluent finish is complex and long melding the intriguing textures flavors and scents of cranberry, Provençal herbs and elegant tannins.”

*Rudy Zuidema, Winemaker*

Our single block of Malbec is less than a quarter acre yielding a mere one-half ton in most years. The row orientation is east/west as opposed to the Cabernet plantings of north/south. Harvest is typically two to three weeks earlier than the multi-clone Cabernet blocks necessitating a very small picking pass by our vineyard crew. The 2010 Malbec showed explosive character on the nose and palate since first tasted from the open top fermentation bin just a few days after harvest. We knew we had something special but just didn't know how special it could become.

A one-year old French oak barrel was used for aging to preserve the intriguing personality of the wine that morphed during its first six months from an engaging wine with red cherry character and the bright acidity of a newborn to a wine displaying richness and depth in the mid-palate with balance and complexity throughout. The elegance of the finished wine is enhanced by a bit of Cabernet Sauvignon (12%) added to the final blend for additional structure and depth. The finished wine continued its aging for one year in a once-used French oak barrel to protect the personality and nature of the wine without adding an unnecessary layer of oak influence.

Malbec traces its origins to the vineyards of Bordeaux where it is used for blending and Cahors in the southwest of France where it is bottled as a sole varietal and made in a rustic style. It continued its popularity in Argentina where it is the most widely planted red grape and produced in a wide range of style and price. Very few acres exist in California compared to the other noble grapes of Bordeaux and little is bottled as a varietal. From that first tasting during fermentation we knew we had something special and now we can appreciate just how special this little known varietal can be.