



## SHADYBROOK — ESTATE —

### 2012 SHADYBROOK ESTATE MALBEC

Three barrels (72 cases) produced  
Alcohol by volume 14.1%

“Malbec is one of the world’s most *terroir* specific wines and we are fortunate that our small block at the west end of the vineyard is ideally suited to bring out the finest characters of this intriguing grape. Our 2012 Malbec displays the seldom found blend of excellent balance and elegance combined with power and grip for a truly extraordinary vinous experience. Earthy aromas are coupled with an intriguing spiced mint and accentuated by complex bouquet of blueberry, anise, tarragon, black cherry and cocoa. The mid-palate follows displaying layers of cherry, espresso bean, ripe raspberry, and a hint of licorice complimenting the rich mouthfeel and supple tannins. . The finish is supported by rich tannins and seems to go on forever with its “Coombsville” minerality accented by hints of brown sugar, sweet leather, and black cherry notes.”

*Rudy Zuidema, Winemaker*

Our single block of Malbec is less than a quarter acre yielding less than one ton in even the best 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 2012 Malbec showed power and depth with a robe of elegance both on the nose and palate since first tasted from the open top fermentation bin just a few days after harvest. We knew we once again had something special but as with previous vintages we just didn’t know how special it could become. After fermentation the wine was put into neutral oak to preserve freshness and varietal character for three months and then transferred to a one-year old French oak barrel to preserve its intriguing personality. Over the next six months it morphed 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 structure, depth and length of the finished wine is enhanced by a bit of Cabernet Sauvignon (15%) added to the final blend. 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. Malbec is one of the world’s most *terroir* specific varietals and we are fortunate that our small block in the west end of the vineyard is so well suited to this intriguing grape.