

2003 POETRY
CABERNET SAUVIGNON, STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

Vintage

A warm March brought on an early budbreak, which was followed by a wet April. These late spring rains ensured that the vines were healthy as they went into a cooler-than-average summer. Harvest started amidst a see-saw of heat spikes followed by cool stretches, causing a start-stop crush. Yields were below average by twenty-five percent, but the cool pauses allowed us to wait and pick when the individual blocks were ready.

Vineyard

The Poetry Vineyard is the easternmost of our two estate Stags Leap District vineyards, located just a stone's throw from the winery and the Twin Peaks estate vineyard. The vineyard sits on a high-exposure, west-facing steep hillside below the luxurious Poetry Inn. Reaching from the highest elevation of the Stags Leap Appellation down almost to the valley floor, this vineyard's heart and soul is a gritty combination of shallow soils atop fractured shales and low-yielding old vines of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Winemaking

Hand harvested into small thirty-five pound boxes, the grapes were destemmed to tank for a two to five day, pre-fermentation cold soak. Selected lots underwent extended maceration to further develop the tannin structure. The free run was separated from the press wine and racked into thin-stave French chateau-style oak barrels (seventy-eight percent of which were new), where the wine was aged for twenty-four months.

Winemaker Notes

Notes upon release: The 2003 Poetry Stags Leap District opens with inviting aromas of spiced plum ganache, kirsch, mocha, star anise, dried lavender, and a hint of blueberry. The mouth possesses excellent purity, with initial flavors of black cherry and rose petal. Very fine and sweet delicate tannins begin shortly thereafter, with the mouth evolving into a clean and lingering finish that is strongly reminiscent of a freshly-baked dark cherry pie.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate Retrospective Tasting Notes

"This beautiful, pure stylish wine (85% Cabernet, 10% Merlot, 5% Malbec) has gracefully entered its tenth year of life and is close to maturity, yet it still possesses a dense blue/purple color, medium body, and endearing notes of black raspberries, cherries and graphite. Layered and gracious in the style of a Napa version of a Margaux, this wine can be drunk with great pleasure now or cellared for at least another decade." 95 points. - Robert Parker, June 2013

Analysis

Composition:	85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 5% Malbec		
Alcohol:	14.7%	Bottling Date:	December 2005
Production:	803 cases	Release Date:	November 2006