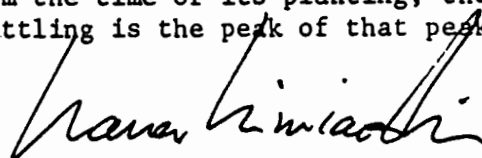


This long awaited wine, tasted many times in pre-release tastings with impressively favorable results, is being made available at this time. While it will benefit from additional aging, the outline of its exemplary qualities are now so evident that we have decided to make it available to the general public.

In my opinion, it will be the most outstanding example of the wine tradition embodied in the Cask 23 series so far. This is so because, in keeping with the more mature stage of the life of the vineyard, I intend to revise the composition goals of the future Cask 23 series. Thus, in more ways than one, this wine will be a kind of culmination for the youthful period of the vineyards life, and future cask bottlings will reflect the subtleties appropriate to the confidence of its maturity.

This is wine in the imperial style, with its beautifully deep and resonant color announcing the large proportions to follow. The nose has a suggestive complexity, ripe but not over ripe fruit--violets, oak, the evolved subtleties--bringing forward a second layer of restrained richness to the senses. The flavors are superbly intermingled with the tannin to give an apparent continuity of flavor and structure through the whole impression in the mouth. The finish is also extremely lasting and continuous; and thus, the overall impression is one of completeness on a large scale. If our 1978 Cabernet was a kind of peak for the grapes from this vineyard from the time of its planting, there is no question to me that the 1978 Cask 23 bottling is the peak of that peak.



Warren Winiarski
Winemaker

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

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