



July 1988

Stag's Leap Wine Cellars is proud to announce the release of our 1985 SLV (our new designation for Stag's Leap Vineyards). This is the best wine we have made from this vineyard with the exception of the Cask Twenty-Three from the same year. Formerly, the 1974 and 1978 wines from the same vineyard were the paragons of excellence for style and vintage. You may recall that the 1974 Cabernet Sauvignon SLV Cask Twenty-Three was judged first by 700 assembled tasters at the Wine Spectator's California Wine Experience tasting of outstanding California Cabernets in 1984. The 1978 SLV Lot 2 Cabernet was favored by three different sets of connoisseur tasters from among three different sets of Classed-Growth Bordeaux and fine California Cabernets in San Francisco, Houston, and Dallas in 1982.

My personal evaluation of the wines, knowing how each of them appeared at the same time of development, is that the 1985 SLV will exceed the other two vintages by far. We are looking forward to comparative tastings with other Cabernets from this stellar California year.

The wine is the essence of SLV character. Ripe, abundant fruit greets the nose with pleasing aromas of cherries and cassis balanced by the spice of French oak. Flavors are long, complex and layered. The texture is perhaps the most extraordinary quality of this wine of many delights, having a supple edge combined with a firm, fine-grained and seamless interior. The finish is long and satisfying, providing many palate echoes of slowly fading resonance. The exuberance of its youth promises harmonious grace in its maturity.

The bottle and the label of this special wine are also special: the FIRST EDITION of a new packaging format for the SLV and Cask Twenty-Three from Stag's Leap Wine Cellars. It provides a distinctiveness for these wines. I am enclosing a recent article in the L.A. Times by its wine correspondent Dan Berger.

As a reminder to all our friends, we make three Cabernets under the Stag's Leap Wine Cellars brand. From our estate vineyards, we make SLV and Cask Twenty-Three. The Cask Twenty-Three is always a special selection from the best of all lots. It is not made every year. The 1984 Cask Twenty-Three is only the sixth wine of that designation which we have made since the first harvest from SLV in 1972. Only vintages of extraordinary quality are considered, and even then, the decision may be to "pass" a given year for Cask Twenty-Three. You may look for it with confidence that it is something special.

The Napa Valley Cabernet is a wine made from grapes we purchase from selected growers. Their considerate vineyard management matches our own, and the stylistic character of the fruit is similiar to that of our estate vineyards. These wines show superior Napa Valley regional character, but they do not possess the additional distinctive character of classical and unique vineyard designation. You will also notice that we have begun to use "Estate Bottled" on the SLV and Cask Twenty-Three labels. This term signifies wines made from our own vineyards, SLV and Fay.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Winiarski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail.

Warren Winiarski