

THE GREAT WINE SEMINAR 2000

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS CASK 23 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Presented by Warren Winiarski

Background from Warren Winiarski – The aim is to unite “fire and water” – alluvium and volcanic soil – to arrive at a steel fist in a velvet glove. Winiarski wants “smoothness” and “weightlessness.” Cask 23 is only made in selected years when the “elements” exist to express the desired objective. The core includes Block 4 SLV (hillside) and Block 10 of Fay. A maximum of 3% Merlot and .5% Petit Verdot may be added to provide “grace notes.”

Stag's Leap Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 *(*)**

Moderately dense dark red with purple rim. The aroma is dominated by black fruits with a hint of tar. Ripe nuanced black fruit on the palate. Harmonious, well-balanced. Dry, youthful finish.

Cask 23 1995 **(+)**

Moderately dense dark red with purple. The aroma exhibits young black fruits and notes of tar and vanilla. Ripe black fruits on entry. Lovely balance of fruit, alcohol, acidity and tannin. Very long, aromatic finish.

Cask 23 1992 *(*)**

Moderately dense red garnet. Open, fragrant nose with black fruits and tar. Fresh attack, then secondary characteristics. Cool presence. Becoming long and complex in the aftertaste.

Cask 23 1990 **(*)**

Moderately dense dark garnet with brick at rim. Open, scented aroma with a eucalyptus note. Really lovely and beautifully composed on the palate. This has wonderful complexity and perfect equilibrium. Outstanding.

Cask 23 1985 *****

Dense garnet with brick rim. Lovely nose: deep and rich with dominant leather and cedar and an herbal note. The taste is rich and harmonious with a spicy, leathery tone in the finish. Softening and nearing its peak. The year which ended a period of drought.

Cask 23 1984 ****

Moderately dense garnet-brick. Some volatile acidity at first, then richness beneath. Round and rich if not as fat as the '85. Maturing.

Cask 23 1983 *+**

Paling dark garnet. The nose is weakening with age and offers subdued notes of coffee and milk chocolate. Maturing flavors but very attractive. Medium weight and intensity. Has reached its maximum expression.

Cask 23 1978 *****

Dense dark garnet with a brick rim – not at all advanced. Fabulous aromatics: very rich and complex with tobacco and cedar highlights. The palate delivers complexity of flavor and great length. Very lovely, very graceful. This will continue to develop. The berries were small this year.

Cask 23 1977 *+**

Fairly dense dark garnet with a brick rim. Fragrant, attractive bouquet with subtle fruit and spice. In the mouth, the wine is very appealing and elegant. Not a heavyweight. Very good length. Ready now.