



2005 "ASTRAL" CABERNET SAUVIGNON SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

In every vineyard, there exist select parcels of land that yield exceptional quality. Since arriving at Star Lane, wine-maker Nick de Luca has consistently observed this special nature in three vineyard parcels—blocks 24, 25 and 29. Not surprisingly, they are all contiguous and located along the ridgeline at the highest elevations in the vineyard which surpass 1,500 feet at the pinnacle. These parcels form the nucleus of Star Lane's reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Astrale, a Latin-based word that means, "Pertaining to or proceeding from the stars."

According to Nick, "Block 25 is always the guts of the wine. It's typically the first harvested and has enormous body."

Block 24 lies at the highest elevation and is the most even ripening. This section of vineyard is planted with vines whose provenance is purported to be from the original clonal material at the famous Beaulieu Vineyard in Napa

Valley. Planted in 2001, Block 24 is "own-rooted"—that is, the vines are not grafted to phylloxera-resistant rootstock. It's a calculated experiment designed to explore the essence of the way Cabernet Sauvignon was once grown for centuries in both the Old and New World.

Block 29—the third parcel in the Astrale trio—is among the last to ripen at Star Lane. "These grapes always add nuance and pedigree to the blend," Nick says. The 2005 Star Lane Astrale Cabernet Sauvignon shows immense concentration, with huge, lush tannins that frame tightly layered cassis, blackberry, plum, coffee, chocolate, spice, vanilla and smoke flavors. Sporting a suppleness that belies its youth, the wine is drinking beautifully now, but we suspect it will offer collectors many years of pleasure to come.

FINISHED WINE

Composition: 100 % estate-grown grapes: 99 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 1 % Petit Verdot, Native yeast fermentation, Oak: French (100 % new Taransaud) Unfiltered
Appellation: Santa Ynez Valley
Alcohol: 15.1%
Total Acid: 4.0 g/L
pH: 3.98

STAR LANE
VINEYARD

P.O. Box 1882, Santa Ynez, CA 93460
Phone (805) 693-0744 * Fax (805) 688-0595
www.starlanevineyard.com