



Herb Lamb Vineyards 2008 Two Old Dogs Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasting Notes

2008 was one of the oddest growing seasons in many years. The Napa Valley experienced a dry spring, topped by devastating late April frosts with rain and high winds, followed by an unusual heat wave - making for an erratic bloom period. This effectively cut the overall crop by as much as 20% in some areas, although the hillside Herb Lamb Vineyards, with the steady breezes through our eastern valley, escaped another potential loss due to frost. If anything, the weather at bloom led to smaller berry size which ultimately reflects a greater color and intensity of flavor in red wines.

Weather fears always separate picking decisions during harvest, but we were able to ride out an early period of searing heat and continue to irrigate our hillside vineyard throughout a late August and early September heat wave. Fortunately, the fall ripening season continued at a cooler pace without much rainfall, with temperatures in the 70's, and we were able to pick the vineyard as it ripened, from October 13 to 23rd.

While for many it was one of the smallest harvests in several years, forcing wineries to scramble to find additional fruit sources, at Herb Lamb Vineyards our young vines were hitting their stride, and we were able to realize almost the same tonnage as the previous vintage. The color, flavor and tannin extraction are above expectations for the 2008 vintage, and we were very pleased with the final results in the bottle after a harrying vintage as grape growers.

Winemaking Notes

2011 marks the change of labels from our E II brand to TWO OLD DOGS - same wines made from the same blend of grapes from the same great vineyards as the E II - only with a different label. The 2008 TWO OLD DOGS reflects the new plantings that have been taking place since 2002 on the Herb Lamb Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon estate. Our 20-year-old vineyard has now been entirely replanted with a healthier rootstock and the same clone 7 to allow us to grow and sustain quality grapes for the next 20 years.

Winemaker Mike Trujillo calls the 2008 TWO OLD DOGS "A very friendly wine, not clumsy, but rich and juicy up front. This wine is flush and lush, one of the most decadent wines we've made, but well structured and with a good balance. Aromatically, there is a fair amount of oak and lots of dry Baker's chocolate with a hint of smoky tobacco. The color is wonderful, and in the nose you can smell the licorice and spiced dark chocolate. In the mouth, you can feel the weight and taste the oak folding in nicely to the dark fruits and cocoa. There is a bright acidity to this vintage that will make it a bigger wine in the mouth than some previous vintages."

Overall, the 2008 Cabernet Sauvignons will be lush and very approachable in their youth, but this wine still feels like it's built to age. The tannins are velvety and the wine shows lots of spicy black hillside fruits with the depth to age for 5-8 years.

Production and Technical Data

Production:	130 cases
Composition/Blend:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vineyards:	Herb Lamb Vineyards
Appellation:	Napa Valley
Barrels:	60% new French oak
Alcohol:	14.4%

