

# Lail Vineyards



## 2003 J. DANIEL CUVEE, NAPA VALLEY

### THE PEOPLE

Lail Vineyards traces its origins back five generations to the founding of Inglenook Vineyards in 1879 by our great-grand uncle, Gustav Niebaum. The recurring mission statement from that time to this, five generations later, is to pursue the unending quest for excellence in the wines we produce. The firm's motto is "Pride, not profit."

### THE WINE

While the 2003 J. Daniel Cuvee is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, it remains a "cuvee" as the wine is a blend of different lots of Cabernet coming from harvests of different vineyards on different dates. The select small lots were sourced from the Lail Vineyards estate on Howell Mountain and the Phillips Family Vine Hill Ranch in the Oakville appellation. Due to the painstaking and detailed selection of lots to marry into the final blend, just 800 cases were produced.

Winemaker Philippe Melka notes "The wine reveals a profound dark color. Intense and focused, the nose exhibits aromas of plum, cassis, smoke and charcoal. When tasted the wine has wonderful depth and purity. The style is smooth and elegant, finishing with the characteristic J. Daniel Cuvee lingering sweet tannins."

Critic Robert Parker commented "...a gorgeously proportioned, dense purple-colored offering boasting a stunning nose of black currants, smoke, earth and charcoal. Big and rich with superb purity and great structure, but neither overbearing nor astringent, this beauty should drink well for 15 or more years." (94 points)

The wine showed beautifully at the time of release and should continue to develop until the year 2020. We recommend decanting the wine one or two hours prior to serving.

**PROPRIETORS:** The Lail Family

**THE WINE:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

**BARRELS:** Aged 20 months in French oak barrels, 70% new

**WINEMAKER:** Philippe Melka

**PRODUCTION:** 800 cases

**VINEYARD:** Howell Mountain and Oakville

**RELEASE:** June 2008