Lail Vineyards

PROPRIETORS: The Lail Family

WINEMAKER: Philippe Melka

APPELLATION: 100% Napa Valley

VINEYARDS: Estate fruit plus select growers

VARIETALS: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot

PRODUCTION: 1427 cases of 12x750ml, 127 cases of 12x375ml

BOTTLED: June 2010

RELEASE: February 2011

2008 BLUEPRINT CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

THE PEOPLE

Lail Vineyards traces its Napa Valley roots back five generations to the founding of Inglenook in 1879 by Gustav Niebaum, great-grand uncle of Robin Daniel Lail. Passed down to third generation owner John Daniel, Jr., Inglenook thrived under his direction from 1933 to 1964 as he played a major role in the development of the Napa Valley appellation. The winery's flagship wine, "J. Daniel Cuvee", is named in his honor.

Lail Vineyards was founded in 1995 by fourth generation vintner Robin Lail and her family to carry the unique family legacy forward into the 21st Century. Generations five and six are woven into the tapestry of the venture with the involvement of daughters Erin and Shannon, and with the "Georgia" Sauvignon Blanc named for the first member of the sixth generation. Each year the family continues its passionate quest to produce the very finest wines in the world from the blend of their ingredients – the land, the seasons, the winemaking team and the spirit of the generations who led the way.

THE WINE

Originally, this wine was whimsically dubbed 'Blueprint' as a nod to Jon Lail's Napa Valley architectural practice and also because it was made like our flagship J. Daniel Cuvee, which was a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Since the J. Daniel Cuvee has evolved to a Cabernet Sauvignon, so too has our Blueprint red wine evolved into a Cabernet Sauvignon. It continues to be the proud sister to J. Daniel Cuvee, albeit with a focus on immediate manners at the dining table.

"The 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Blueprint is made from fruit purchased from four separate vineyards. It is an outstanding example of a Napa wine available at a more approachable price. As good as the outstanding 2007 Blueprint, the dark ruby/purple-tinged 2008 exhibits lots of black current and black cherry notes intermixed with hints of licorice and roasted herbs. Round and supple-textured with silky tannins, this mid-weight Cabernet can be enjoyed over the next 5-7 years. 90 points."

— Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate

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