



The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

MELKA 2008 METISSE LA MEKERRA VINEYARD

KNIGHT'S VALLEY

(unknown)

RED

92

TASTING NOTES AND RATINGS

This is the personal project of the increasingly respected and well-known French winemaking consultant, Philippe Melka, and his wife, Cherie. Their *négociant* blend called CJ comes from three Napa Valley sources, two in the southern region (Soda Canyon and Coombsville) and one from the northern sector of Calistoga. The 2008 CJ is a soft, round, upfront red exhibiting lush black cherry and mocha-infused black currant fruit, silky tannins, hints of loamy soil and tobacco leaf notes and a generous, opulent mid-palate and finish. Drink this delicious, heady 2008 over the next decade. The Jumping Goat Vineyard is situated in St. Helena. The 2008

precocious, evolved, sweet black currant fruit intermixed with smoked herbs, licorice and Christmas fruitcake. Already silky and delicious, it can be enjoyed for 10-12 years after its release.

The La Mekerra Vineyard produces Melka's Pomerol/St.-Emilion-styled wine. It is normally a blend of two-thirds Merlot and one-third Cabernet Franc from Knight's Valley. I retasted the 2007 Metisse La Mekerra Vineyard and it exhibited a medium to full body, lots of chocolate, black currant, espresso, plum and loamy soil characteristics and a luscious, round, medium to full-bodied personality. It is ideal for drinking over the

Metisse Cabernet Sauvignon, Jumping Goat Vineyard is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot. The wine is a French oak barrel-aged wine with a saturated red color, a toast, gravel and tobacco leaf tannins (a wine can be colored 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 80% Cabernet Sauvignon).

The 2008 Metisse La Mekerra Vineyard (55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot) reveals similar notes of chocolate, espresso, plum, anise, black currant and kirsch. Slightly denser and plumper than the 2007, this beautiful wine should drink nicely for 10-15 years. The 2009 Metisse La Mekerra Vineyard (55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot) is a bit more open than the 2008. The 2009 Metisse La Mekerra Vineyard (55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot) is a bit more open than the 2008. The 2009 Metisse La Mekerra Vineyard (55% Cabernet Franc and 45% Merlot) is a bit more open than the 2008. (707) 963-4546

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