

MELKA WINES 2003 METISSE RELEASE

After eight years of sourcing the grapes from Philippe's clients, we finally found the perfect fit - located west of St. Helena, the vineyard is owned by Stephanie and Jim Gamble. It is situated next to legendary vineyards such as Spottswood and Madrona Ranch. This six acre vineyard is divided into six blocks; three of cabernet sauvignon, one merlot, one cabernet franc and finally one of petit verdot. The very gravelly heavy soils, reminiscent of the Medoc area in France, are perfectly suited for these Bordeaux varieties. Planted by David Abreu on tight spacing (6' x 3') in 1999, it is now managed between the Gambles and ourselves.

In 2003, we harvested the grapes between September 19th and October 3rd. The combination of concentrated flavors and structure allowed us to macerate the grapes in wooden tanks for the cabernet and wooden barrels for the other varieties, for more than a month.

The wine has a voluptuously textured mid-palate all the while exhibiting the Melka touch of elegance and raffinity. We made 520 cases of this wine and although the price of Métilse has gone up, so have the costs incurred in producing this wine. We still feel that it is well worth every penny.

WHAT'S NEW?

We are lucky enough to be crafting our wines at one of Napa Valley's most prestigious wineries, Vineyard 29. The combination of innovative winery design and attention to detail have allowed us to create what we feel is a world-class wine.

"We love this vintage."



Philippe & Cherie Melka