



## 2009 EL DORADO

R E S E R V E

### MALBEC

**Sources:** Duarte Georgetown Vineyard and Sauber Vineyards, El Dorado County

**Harvest Dates:** Oct 10, 2009 / Oct 21, 2009

**Brix at Harvest:** 27 & 26.5

**Time in Barrel:** 18 months

**Type of Oak:** Neutral French & American

**Alcohol:** 15.5%

**Bottled:** April 21, 2011

**Production:** 276 cases

**Winemaker's Notes:** Malbec is known as a lesser Bordeaux grape variety used in making red wine. Nonetheless, Malbec wines tend to have an inky dark color, a brooding spicy element and significant tannins. Long known as one of the six grapes allowed in the blend of red Bordeaux wine the French plantations of Malbec are now found primarily in Cahors in South West France region but the wine is extensively produced in Argentina.

El Dorado Malbec has characteristics that fall somewhere between Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot with much more spiciness. The flavors can lead towards ripe plums leading to a very clean finish.

Our two vineyards come from opposite ends of the county, as Duarte is 2600 ft on a mountain top with fresh breezes and Sauber is in the ridge over a river valley but has a depression that cups cool air at night.

A midseason ripener, and a fun blender, Malbec brings very deep color and a particular plum-like flavor component to add complexity to claret blends.

Look out Argentina!