

2006 Belle Cousine



Proprietors:	Mr. & Mrs. Aubert de Villaine Mr. & Mrs. Laurence W. Hyde Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Hyde III
Region:	Napa Valley
Appellation:	Los Carneros
Vineyard:	Hyde Vineyard
Age of vines:	8 to 21 years
Geography:	Eastern edge of the Carneros District
Exposure:	South by southeast
Soil:	Shallow loam over clay hardpan
Acreage:	10 acres
Production:	1,317 cases
Harvest dates:	September 28, October 4 & 18, 2006
Bottling date:	July 23, 2008
Retail:	\$60

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2006 vintage was a year of extremes. Despite significant flooding in parts of Napa Valley, winter rains did little damage at Hyde Vineyard where the shallow soils drain extremely well. Rain continued into spring delaying bud break by a few days. Mid-spring provided improved weather, as Hyde Vineyard experienced bloom along with a near perfect fruit set, followed by a July heat spike. Finally, the weather normalized through the month of August and the remainder of the season, consisting of morning fog and flavor concentrating winds.

WINEMAKER NOTES

A complex nose of dark fruit and fresh spices introduce our 2006 HdV Belle Cousine - blackcurrant and blackberry aromas intertwined with Hyde Vineyard's mineral expression of graphite and fresh ground pepper. The wine's definition comes from its powerful, elegant tannins evolving toward a balanced and lasting finish. A wine that is juxtaposed with refinement and intensity, the 2006 HdV Belle Cousine will provide immediate pleasure at your table and also age harmoniously for years to come.

- *Stéphane Vivier, Winemaker, HdV Wines*