

THE CREATION OF THE BEAST - THE BEAST IS BORN

Dave Del Dotto awoke at 3am from an intense dream. In the dream he was tasked to bring one wine from Napa Valley to compete in an international tasting. He was torn as to which Estate vineyard from our portfolio he would choose to put against the world's best wines from France, Spain and Italy. They are all delicious and showcased the best appellations in Napa Valley as individual vineyards but was it truly representing Napa Valley by choosing only one site?

The next morning, he met our winemaker in the VIP area of the Estate Caves and told him about the dream in which Dave blended our original Rutherford Estate vineyard cabernet with the cabernet from Vineyard 887, St. Helena Mountain and Oakville. Then he added cabernet from Howell Mountain and topped it off with our Villa Del Lago cabernet from Pritchard Hill. This would create a pure 100% Cabernet from all our top Estate vineyards. They both said, "Why haven't we done this yet?" They quickly went through the caves and chose the best barrels from all the single Estate cabernet vineyards. For two days they put together and sampled different combinations until they finally found the perfect marriage, creating a balanced wine. It was a tightly wound, brooding, dark black Cabernet that was so complex it was a bit confusing!

A friend of the family was visiting around the time they were working on this new super blend. Dave poured him a glass of the black, syrupy liquid out of an unmarked bottle because it didn't have a name yet. His first comment was, "What a Beast"! As soon as he said "Beast", Dave knew that was the destined name for this new wine. It was a Beast! It was so big and complex it ripped your mouth out! The Beast was born from a dream and would make its way through to the material world.

The first vintage in 2008 had a limited production with less than 100 cases made. The wine was only tasted by VIPs for a couple of months in the Fall of 2010 and quickly sold-out. By the 2012 and 2013 vintages we received a perfect 100-point rating; solidifying this wine as one of the world's BEST! Each year we continue to fine tune this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon made from six of our single vineyard sites. The barrels selected are the best of the best from each vintage. This incredible wine has become our flagship Cabernet Sauvignon truly representing how complex and delicious Napa Valley wines are and why we have become a world class destination for the finest wines in the world!

THE BEAST LABEL

In the summer of 1989, the Del Dotto family took a trip to Italy which of course included a visit to Venice. Dave was walking down a small, crooked street just to the left of Piazza San Marcos and saw a stationary store with old books and beautifully printed cards. There he spotted an old copper plate from the 18th century that had a lion with wings holding the bible. The bible had a Latin inscription that said, "Welcome to our safe harbor, we are at peace." In the background behind the winged lion was the Venetian harbor with its beautiful buildings and floating gondolas. The plate had an antique look and was used to make prints on parchment. What stood out to him was the lion's beastly image. He bought it with the intention of possibly making a wine label one day. It remained unused until we had a wine that was worthy. This new Cabernet was truly deserving of an ancient label representing the best the Del Dotto family could produce, especially since our ancestors were there in 1103 CE.

SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO HAVE A MIND-BLOWING WINE IN YOUR CELLAR

Everyone needs to have a special bottle of wine to pull out on special occasions. Like when a rich, snobby wine connoisseur friend or business associate comes over for dinner and touts their 2000 first growth French wine worth \$2000 a bottle, sets it on your table, and says, "Taste that!" Then you go grab a bottle of the Beast, put it next to the French, and you say, "Let's try this against it." They will be confused because they probably have never heard of Del Dotto much less the Beast. After decanting and sipping they will succumb to the Beast, because the BEAST will eat them and their bottle up! After being bitten by the Beast they will ask the question, "Wow! Where did you get that?"

Enjoy, Dave Del Dotto