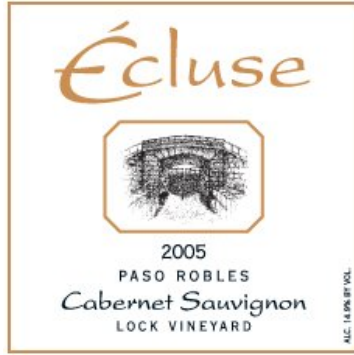


2005 CABERNET SAUVIGNON



2005 Écluse Cabernet Sauvignon Lock Vineyard

351 Cases Produced
14.9 Alcohol
3.42 pH
7.1 g/l Titratable Acidity

Écluse Wines is a tiny family owned vineyard and winery tucked away in the prized rolling hills in the Westside of the Paso Robles AVA. Since planting the vineyard in 1998 my wife Pam and I have personally farmed and proudly sold our “Lock Vineyard” fruit to such critically acclaimed Westside neighbors as Linne Calodo and SummerWood among others. But, in early 2001 we decided to keep some of the fruit for ourselves, making small batches of the wines we like to drink. Now, with the help of noted consulting winemaker Scott Hawley, we are expanding our production and are anxious to introduce you to our 2005 Écluse Wines.

Our Cabernet Sauvignon is planted in a south facing portion of the vineyard with soils with a high content of shale and limestone. The proximity of the vineyard to the Templeton Gap gives us an ideal climate for our fruit with hot days but cool, sometimes foggy nights and mornings. With a lot of rain early in the year and heat spikes in the middle of the growing season the work in the vineyard was a challenge. The cane pruned block of the Cab, difficult to work with in a “normal” season, took on added requirements with the increased vigor due to the early and consistent rain. All pruning, shoot thinning and fruit drop is done by hand and it took several passes during the season to keep the vines under some semblance of control. The number of hours spent pulling laterals and leaves was at least double over the prior few years but resulted in beautiful fruit harvested the third week of October. We harvest in two picks a few days apart, separating to some degree the 337 and 08 clones.

As with all of our reds we fermented in small, open top bins after a short period of cold soak. Fermentation went smoothly and we pressed off to French oak barrels after a couple of weeks. After a period of five months the wine was racked, blended in a tank and returned to barrels for an additional seven months. We bottled in mid-March and released the wine in September.

A classically structured Cabernet with aromas of blackberry, coffee and chocolate which leads to well-balanced tannins and acid and wonderful mid-mouth feel. It is a rich, bold and velvety smooth wine that displays a gorgeous ruby-garnet color.

Steven Lock
Winemaker