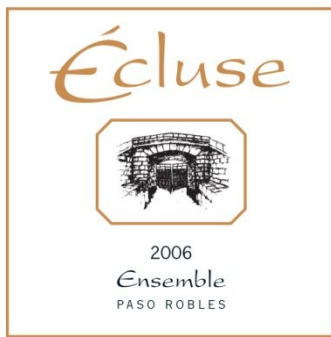


2006 ENSEMBLE



2006 Écluse Ensemble

392	Cases Produced
14.9	Alcohol
3.78	pH
5.9g/l	Titratable Acidity
	Unfiltered / Unfined

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, Edward Sellers and the noted wines of Chateau Margene 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 2006 Écluse Wines.

Our philosophy at Écluse is to produce the best wine from what the best fruit gives us. This year that philosophy produced a blend change in our Ensemble to 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot and 35% Petit Verdot. The Cabernet Sauvignon is from our Lock Vineyard and is a combination of cane pruned clone 08 and bi-lateral VSP trained clone 337. These vines are in a south facing block with heavy shale and limestone influenced soil on the knolls and clay/loam soils in the swales. This fruit has a wonderful balance of tannin and acid which was evident even when the wines are very young. The Merlot and Petit Verdot were sourced from two small vineyards where we were intimately involved with the viticulture practices. We are currently replanting a portion of our vineyard to include Petit Verdot and Malbec which will be used in future versions of this excellent wine.

The fruit was picked over a period of three weeks in October due to the microclimates of the different vineyards. The varietals are fermented separately in open top bins after cold soaking for two days. We use punch downs to aerate the juice and control temperatures during fermentation and to enhance color and flavor extractions. A small basket press was used to gently press off the wine and it was then transferred to a combination of 40% new oak using both French and Hungarian oak plus a combination of two year old and neutral barrels.

In the barrel for eighteen months the wine was bottled in early April of 2008. The nose invites you to explore the harmony of these Bordeaux varietals dominated by the classic Cabernet Sauvignon black cherry and currant overtone with the additional fruit, spice, deep violet and floral undertones brought to this blend by the Petit Verdot and Merlot. Ensemble has a wonderful tannin/acid balance and provides a long, lingering finish. Very approachable now but will show off its lush and supple style beautifully as it ages. If you can hold on to it for a year or even two you will be greatly rewarded. This wine will cellar well for 7 to 10 years.

Steven Lock
Winemaker