



LAUGHING STOCK VINEYARDS Blind Trust Red 2008



A blind trust is a financial trust in which the executors have full discretion over the assets, and the trust beneficiaries have no knowledge of the holdings of the trust. In this case, our Blind Trust is a wine in which the winemaker has full discretion over the blend so you'll just have to trust us.

But if you are really curious about the blend, just **blind taste the Blind Trust** and try to guess the varietals before disclosing the assets which are kept under wrap and seal of the capsule.

Winemaking Notes: As part of our blending process for the Portfolio, we often have to make hard decisions about what barrels make the final blend, in terms of taste profile and balance with the other varietals. Each year, we end up with a handful of barrels that are thus brought together to become Blind Trust.

This year's combination of varietals result in an approachable and full-bodied wine that still has a solid tannin structure to provide good aging potential. Lots of juicy berries and mocha with a smooth, lingering finish.

Vintage Notes: Winter damage from a November cold snap damaged many of the red varieties, thus crop loads on big reds, particularly Merlot, were way down. However, small crops are easier to ripen and provide greater intensity. The 2008 vintage was slow to start with a cool spring that delayed bud break. After reasonable summer heat, we were rewarded with an incredibly warm September, we reached target sugar levels with balanced fruit and acidity by the end of the season.

Harvest Dates: Began October 13 and finished October 26, 2008

Blend: 78% Merlot, 13% Malbec, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon

Aging: 17 months in French oak barrels

Cases Produced: 1120 cases

Alcohol: 14.4%

Price: \$29.00

CPSC: +123612

***** 90-91 Points – John Schreiner** - This dark-hued wine begins with aromas of cassis and blackberries and delivers appealing flavours of spiced plum, black cherry, blackberry and chocolate. The ripe tannins give the wine a full-bodied texture.

***** 91 Points – James Suckling**, former editor of **Wine Spectator Magazine** - Wow. Fruit forward yet it's fresh and racy with lots of dark fruits and dark chocolate character. It's full bodied, with round and polished tannins and a long flavorful finish. Hard not to drink it now, but it will come on even better in a year or two.