

# billhook

2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON Napa Valley



**billhook** is an Old English word for a vineyard pruning knife, a tool that can be handed down for generations in Napa Valley.

Thirty years ago on a foggy Napa morning, I met man preparing for a day of pruning. His knowledge of Napa's best wines, viticulture, geology and the elements required to create extraordinary wine rivaled UC Davis trained oenologists. With dark, wrinkled hands, he produced a hooked pruning knife. It had belonged to his grandfather who worked Napa Valley vineyards in the previous century. What this man had learned from his father and grandfather was vision, commitment, sacrifice and a passion to create wines that could stand among the best in the world.

I never saw him again, but each winter as I watch workers move through the gray smoke of burning cuttings, I wonder if that knife is in one of their hands. **Billhook Cabernet Sauvignon** is dedicated to this man and to the others like him whose role is essential in making Napa Valley a world class source of great wine.

This distinctive wine is a blend of the five classic Bordeaux varietals: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec and Petite Verdot to better enhance great food.

- *Crawford Malone*

## THE HARVEST

The 2009 harvest in Napa Valley produced an excellent vintage. A mild weather pattern and late Spring showers started the vintage on the right track. Hot days in late July and early August allowed veraison (the grape's color change from green to red) to occur quickly and provide optimal ripening and rich, balanced flavors for our red varietals.

APPELLATION Napa Valley

ALCOHOL 13.5%

VARIETAL COMPOSITION A classic Bordeaux blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec, Petite Verdot

RELEASE September 1, 2011

SUGGESTED RETAIL \$30

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