



## 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon – Grand Vin

- **Appellation:** Yountville (Napa Valley), CA
- **Barrel Age:** 20 months (98% French, 2% Hungarian)
- **Blend:** 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot
- **Alcohol:** 14.5%
- **Production:** 400 cases

### The Estate

The vineyard and winery are located on State Lane on a 20 acre parcel in Yountville, in the heart of Napa Valley, CA. It is planted in a dense 3ft. by 5-1/2ft. spacing with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.

### The Wine

The flagship Cabernet Sauvignon blend, represents **only 24% of the entire 2008 production**. The wine is produced from only the finest Cabernet Sauvignon lots, and includes small additions of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. 100% Estate-grown fruit is vinified using cultured yeast. Yields typically are 2.5-3.2 tons/acre. Malo-lactic fermentation is performed in barrel, and the resulting wine is bottled without fining or filtration. The “Grand-Vin” title signifies this wine as the ultimate expression that could be achieved from the given vintage, and will provide early drinking pleasure as well as have the ability to age gracefully for more than 20 years.

### Robert Parker, Wine Advocate, December 2010 – 100 Points

**Another perfect wine** (identical to the 2007) is the 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Grand Vin State Lane Vineyard. Composed of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot (430 cases produced), this is an exquisite wine of great precision and profound concentration and complexity. It possesses an inky/purple color in addition to an ethereal nose of cassis, chocolate, burning embers, espresso and forest floor. Sweet tannins, a multidimensional mouthfeel, full-bodied power and good structure as well as freshness make for a prodigious example of wine that will benefit from 4-5 years of cellaring, but will keep for 25-30 years. This is an awesome effort, particularly after what the Kapcsandy family achieved in 2007.

### The Family

As I have written many times over the last several years, the Kapcsandy estate, which is essentially the old Beringer State Lane Vineyard in Yountville resurrected under the perfectionist philosophy of Lou Kapcsandy, his son, Louis, and wife, Bobbi, is about as good a news story as one can find in Napa Valley. The vineyard, planted with very tight spacing and a north/south exposition by Helen Turley and John Wetlaufer, is impressive in its own right. Yet what the Kapcsandys have done with the fruit from that vineyard with assistance from their consultant, the Pauillac-born Denis Malbec, is nothing short of remarkable. Moreover, they have done it in less than a decade, which proves that fortunes can be made quickly, provided there are three ingredients – incredibly hard work, lots of talent, and a super terroir. These can indeed propel an estate to the stratosphere in less than a decade. The basic second wine of lots culled out from their three top cuvees is called Endre. This is a very good effort as the two most recent vintages suggest. There are three cuvees made from Kapcsandy’s State Lane Vineyard. The Estate Cuvee is generally composed of equal proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot blended with tiny amounts of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The Roberta’s Reserve, which is named after Lou Kapcsandy’s wife, Bobbi, is their Pomerol-styled Merlot-based wine that usually contains at least 90% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc. The Cabernet Sauvignon Grand Vin State Lane Vineyard is a northern Medoc-styled offering usually containing 85% or more Cabernet Sauvignon blended with tiny portions of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. This estate has duplicated their extraordinary success with the 2007s with very great 2008s.