

# Santiago Canyon Winery

2008 Cabernet Sauvignon

Bucklin Old Hill Ranch Vineyards - Organic  
Sonoma Mountain AVA, Glen Ellen, California

**Vineyard:** Old Hill Ranch is the oldest vineyard in Sonoma County, founded by William McPherson Hill in 1851. Hill was the first grower in Sonoma to plant non-mission grape varieties which he imported from Peru of Spanish origin. In 1889, Hill sold much of his land but kept two parcels, the south-east corner 60-acre portion, which is now Old Hill Ranch, and a 100-acre parcel on Sonoma Mountain which his son later sold to the famous Jack London in 1903. High-altitude, steep-sloped vineyards, with eastern exposures, catch the fog-free morning sun. These vineyards enjoy their own unique hillside terroir, using the designation of Sonoma Mountain AVA. Powerful, yet elegant Cabernet Sauvignons – the appellation’s specialty – create the singularity that clearly defines the Sonoma Mountain AVA.

**Vintage:** The exemplary 2008 growing season commenced with a dry, mild winter and unusually warm spring, which prompted early bud-break and bloom. The summer was consistently mild, which enabled our modest crop of small-clustered Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon grapes to ripen slowly and evenly, developing rich, distinctive varietal flavors. Warm temperatures in early September, followed by classic California Indian Summer weather, allowed us to harvest our Merlot fruit at optimum sugar and acid balance and phenolics maturity on October 15th.

**Winemaking:** Winemaker Jon Theurich, “JT”, says: “This magnificent Old Hill Cabernet is finally here.” The 2008 vintage produced the best Cabernet Sauvignon fruit we’ve seen in a long time from Sonoma’s Carneros AVA. We cold-soaked our Cabernet grapes for seven days at 33 degrees and fermented the wine for 15 days with extended maceration in small batches to carefully control temperature and enhance flavour. Once the primary fermentation was complete we transferred the wine into 100% new smaller-size Hungarian oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and nine months of aging. **Technical Data:** Alcohol 13.5%, Brix 24.5, pH 3.67, TA .64g/100ml, yeast strains ICV-D21 and VQ15, 100% malolactic.

**Tasting Notes:** Winemaker “JT” says: “The Old Hill Cabernet Sauvignon reminds me of the best Cabs ever made in the 1970’s.” This bold and heady Cabernet Sauvignon from thirty-nine year old vines has a deep garnet hue with rich aromas of black cherries, blackberries, light chocolate and an underlying whisper of black currant. The rich, concentrated flavors are covered in a light vanilla oak, leading to a long, full finish. “Our hope is that you enjoy this luscious and elegant Cabernet from the famous and historical Old Hill Ranch Vineyard as much as we enjoyed making it.” – *Jon Theurich*