

# YATES FAMILY VINEYARD

MOUNT VEEDER



## 2006 FLEUR de VEEDER

<b>Production</b>	78 12-bottle 750 ml cases 60 12-bottle 375 ml cases 20 6-bottle 1.5L cases
<b>Bottled Date</b>	May 2008
<b>Composition</b>	100% estate grown Merlot
<b>Appellation</b>	Mount Veeder – Napa Valley
<b>Elevation</b>	1000-1200 feet
<b>Alcohol</b>	14.6 %
<b>Cooperage</b>	Aged for 18 months in 20 % new French Oak

**Tasting Notes** This opaque and dark purple Merlot leads into expressions of high dark toned fruit, spicy cayenne pepper, and fresh cranberries with hints of coco, cherry, and anise. Pleasing scents of wet rock stones, minerals, and damp soil expresses the true mountain terroir. The great weight and structure with notes of cranberry and raspberry interact brilliantly with a long finish.

**Vineyard** The Yates Family Vineyard is located on the slopes of the Mayacamas Mountains, in the Mount Veeder Appellation. The 35 acres of steep, hillside vineyards were replanted by the Yates' family in the early 1980s to Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc. At an average elevation of over 1,100 feet, the site, with its combination of microclimates and volcanic soils, produces incredible grapes with intense fruit flavors. These elements all contribute to the extremely long-lived wines from this vineyard.

**Vintage** 2006 started off with heavy rains bringing in the New Year. This wet weather lingered into spring. This caused the vines to grown energetically early, delaying bloom into June. June's weather started to warm, with dry conditions favoring fruit set. July had some record heat which was followed by a moderate summer. Harvest was delayed due to the wet spring and delayed bloom. Our first grapes, merlot, were picked October 12<sup>th</sup> with our last picking on October 31<sup>st</sup> with the last batch of Cabernet Franc. Total yield was slightly lower, with small berries that helped concentrate the flavors and enhance the fruit aromas creating intense wines with soft tannins for accessibility early but still possessing age ability for years to come.