

# ILSLEY

VINEYARDS

EST. 1954

## ILSLEY VINEYARDS TASTING NOTES

### 2005 SEIS PRIMAS



Vintage: 2005

Appellation: Stags Leap District

Blend: 58% Malbec,

42% Cabernet Sauvignon

Winemaker: Craig MacLean

Production: 280 Cases

Harvest Dates:

Malbec, Early October,

Cabernet Sauvignon, Mid-October

Brix: Average 25.3

ph: 3.87

The 2005 Seis Primas has a very dark, almost opaque, ruby red appearance that is saturated through the rim. There is a black currant and black cherry aroma, along with tobacco, toasty oak, rose water, and licorice/anise. This wine has a very nice concentration, no rough edges, round and full with blackberry and cherry flavors. It's wonderfully smooth with a long finish and lingering sense of velvet throughout the palate.

#### Vintage Notes From David Ilsley

This vintage was ideal for wine growers. Beautiful green vines loaded with grapes, spring rains and mild summer temperatures, produced large clusters with "big wings and shoulders". As a result, veraison was a few weeks later than normal. We began removing the "wings and shoulders" in the Cabernet prior to veraison to ensure that the clusters received the sunlight needed to fully ripen. The Malbec, as always, was a bit different. It set an average crop, and a quick pass through for "green thinning" was all that was needed. By harvest, the crew had passed through some of the Cabernet blocks three times discarding unwanted clusters. The final yields were higher than average, but our efforts clearly paid off. An October harvest, about two weeks later than normal, also helped to ensure that the Malbec and Cabernet reached full maturity with a beautiful combination of fruit and tannin.

#### Seis Primas

In 1996, Ed Ilsley planted a small block of Malbec near the original 20 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon which had been planted on the family estate in the early 1960s. He believed that this varietal would be well suited to the Stags Leap property. As the vineyards and their family evolved, Ed wanted to honor his granddaughters with a blend of the well established Cabernet and the newer Malbec. Ernie, David and Janice liked their father's idea and they moved forward with it. Working with the Ilsley Vineyards wine maker, Craig MacLean, they proceeded to create a blend worthy of the fourth generation of their wine growing family. This delicious wine is called Seis Primas, the six girl cousins. It celebrates Kimberly, Julia, Alyssa, Analise, Kate and Olivia, the future of Ilsley Vineyards. Seis Primas is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, and has a touch of Merlot from the six estate vineyard blocks named for each of the six cousins.

*We are proud of our vineyards and the fruit that they bear.*



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