



Huber

2004 ESTATE DORNFELDER Santa Rita Hills

Dornfelder is truly unique. Not only is the Huber Vineyard one of the few places in the United States growing Dornfelder, but it produces an amazing grape cluster and a truly interesting wine. Sent to Norman and Traudl Huber as small plants by friends back in Germany who thought they should have a little of the “old country” in the vineyard, Dornfelder has found Santa Rita Hills to its liking! Originally developed in 1956 in Germany as an early-ripening, dark skinned grape to bolster color and body in German Pinot Noir, this grape thrives at Huber Vineyard and is bottled as a single varietal, vineyard designated wine. Dornfelder does not ripen early here – in fact it lags weeks behind the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay at the vineyard, enjoying the long growing season and full days of sunshine. The early morning fog and cool evenings help retain the grapes natural acidity, and the later ripening results in a wine of intense flavors with lower alcohol.

It is hard to call Dornfelder a red wine, as it is almost black in the glass. Indigo perhaps, with flashes of amethyst. The 2004 vintage is bold and robust, with firm acidity and integrated tannins. On the nose, there is a licorice, a bit of mushroomy earthiness and tobacco leaf, along with a hint of mint. The aromas of the wine are reinforced by the first taste, which bursts of ripe black plums and pomegranates, black currants and cedar. The texture is dense and yet smooth, and the lingering finish is layers of dried berry, tar and nicely integrated tannins.

Particularly with the bigness of the 2004 vintage, Dornfelder is best when enjoyed with food. We particularly love it with dishes that are as savory as the wine – wild game, highly-marbled steaks, or roasted meats. It is also delightful after a meal with a hard cheese, at which time it may just be opening up! The 2004 Dornfelder should definitely be decanted and allowed to open for at least a couple of hours, if not a day before pouring. 200 cases produced.

Huber Vineyards & Cellar
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