



Huber Cellars

**2005 Estate Dornfelder
Sta. Rita Hills**

Each year, Huber Dornfelder continues to amaze. It speaks to terroir, and also speaks of vintage and of winemaking. A local favorite, Dornfelder is still a rather unusual wine to find in California – or even in the United States! First developed in Germany in 1956 as a way for winemakers in that country to add color and body to their Pinot Noir, Dornfelder is not often seen as a wine on its own recognizance. Sent to Norman and Traudl Huber from friends who had just returned to Germany from a visit to the vineyard, Dornfelder arrived on the Hubers doorstep as mere twigs. Their friends thought that the Hubers should have a bit of their native Germany in their vineyard, and so these four young vines were planted side by side with the estate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Dornfelder had found a home in California's Central Coast, and thrived! The vines flourished and produced magnificent, huge clusters of inky grapes.



It took a few years to figure out how to manage these bold grapes! With the 2005 vintage, winemaker Norm Yost has somewhat tamed the grapes, with acids and tannins in beautiful balance with the dark berry fruits of the varietal. But there is still a youthful bravado and exuberance in this wine, peeking through the dark color, supple palate and elegant finish. A bit of German formality and reserve with a California attitude!

Dornfelder can barely be called a red wine, in that it is so dark that it almost appears to be black. A very dark garnet color with glints of purple edges first hints of the depth of the wine to come. Fresh blackberry and anise notes on the nose are echoed on the palate, along with dark plum, black currant, elderberry, marionberry and spicy hints of clove. This is the most fruit forward Huber Dornfelder to date, and is nicely balanced with bright acids, elegant dusty tannins and a very pleasant lingering finish. A beautiful food wine, the 2005 Dornfelder pairs exquisitely with barbecued ribs and is a delight as an after dinner wine with a Black Forest chocolate cake and hard cheeses.

Dornfelder...All Other Wines Pale by Comparison!

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