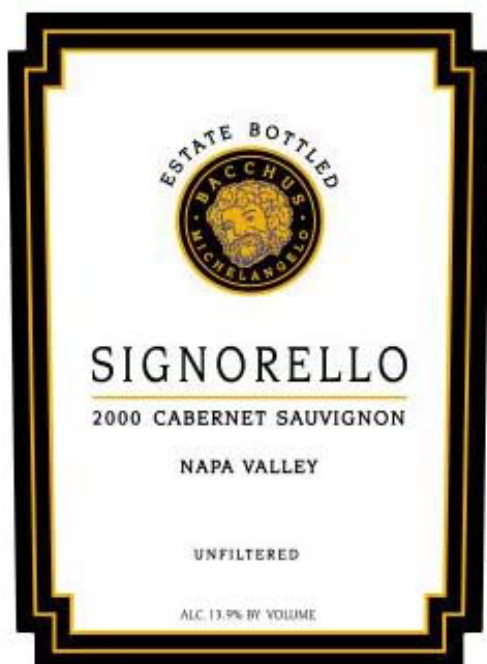


2000 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE



75% Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
15% Napa Valley Merlot
10% Napa Valley Cabernet Franc
Harvested at 24.8 Brix,
between Oct. 15 and Oct. 31, 2000
13.9% Alcohol
0.61 TA/3.68 pH
3150 Cases produced
Release Date: April 2003

HARVEST NOTES: The 2000 Napa Valley growing season was ideal. We encountered hot days and cool nights creating the perfect conditions for making great wine. A couple of days of rain in September gave the grapes the extra kick to keep ripening, adding to the hang time which allows the full natural flavors to develop on the vine. The result is a crop with excellent color, fully developed flavors and great acidity. Yields averaged 2.75 tons/acre in 2000.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Our Estate program follows traditional French winemaking practices. Native yeasts induce fermentation. Techniques include the use of extended maceration (each lot averaged 30 days on the grape skins) and frequent pumping-over (three to four times a day). The 2000 vintage aged for 20 months in 66% new Tronçais, Nevers and Alliers oak (thin-staved, medium-plus toast Chateau Ferre barrels. Tonnelleries: Seguin Moreau and Radoux. Barrels were topped monthly and racked every 6 months. To preserve fruit intensity and body, the wine was not filtered prior to bottling on July 22, 2002.

TASTING NOTES: The reticent nose opens to black currant, vanilla and hints of cedar. The lush full-bodied palate continues with flavors of ripe cassis, vanilla and hints of tobacco. The long and intense finish is accentuated by the young velvety tannins. Drinkability: now -2017.

VINEYARD NOTES: Our estate vineyards planted in 1990 on the Napa Valley hillsides east of the Silverado Trail provided the grapes. A variety of exposures increased the wines complexity. Western slopes: Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Eastern slopes: Cabernet Franc and a second Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard. Crop level and vine growth were closely monitored to achieve balance and intensify fruit character. The vineyards are densely planted (1240 vines per acre) and vertically trellised. The rocky soil with moderate amount of clay averaging three feet in depth provides excellent drainage.