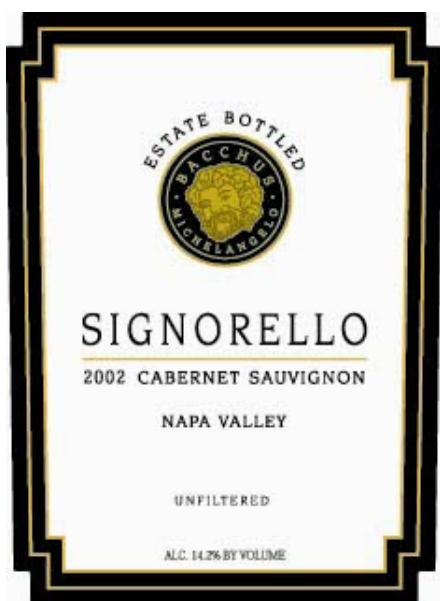


2002 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE



75% Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
13% Napa Valley Merlot
12% Napa Valley Cabernet Franc
Harvested at 25.5 Brix,
Harvested between October 1-7, 2002
14.2 % Alcohol
0.59 TA 3.81 pH
1686 Cases produced

HARVEST NOTES The growing season began with several vineyards experiencing frost in April. In late May unexpected rain caused a bit of loss, but at the same time it helped thin out the crop and give the vines a shot of moisture going into summer. In late September and early October, Napa experienced a few manageable heat spikes speeding harvest to a close. The 2002 vintage will be remembered by a long, mostly mild growing season that ended in a hectic, compressed harvest. The final result of the vintage is expressed through excellent, intense colors and flavor concentration. Yields averaged 1.9 tons/acre in 2002.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Our Estate program follows traditional French winemaking practices. Native yeasts induce fermentation. Techniques include the use of extended maceration (each lot averaged 25 days on the grape skins) and frequent pumping-over (three times a day). The 2002 vintage aged for 21 months in 58% new Tronçais, Nevers and Alliers oak (thin-staved, medium-plus toast Chateau Ferre barrels. Tonnelleries: Seguin Moreau, Radoux, and Sylvain-Doreau. Barrels were topped monthly and racked every 6 months. To preserve fruit intensity and body, the wine was not filtered prior to bottling on, August 9, 2004.

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 -2018.

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.

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