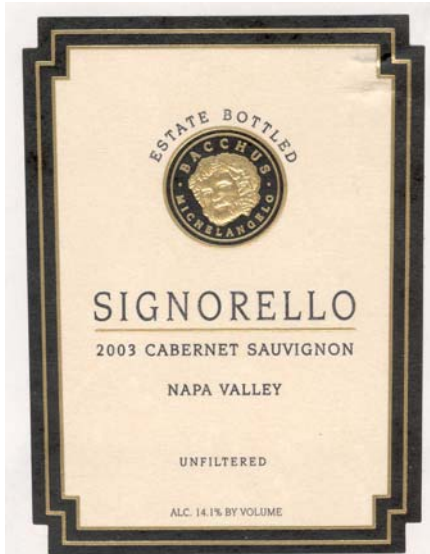


# Signorello Vineyards

## 2003 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon



75% Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon  
14% Napa Valley Merlot  
11% Napa Valley Cabernet Franc  
Harvested between 25.4 & 26.2 Brix,  
0.59 TA / 3.81 pH  
Harvested between October 3-7, 2003  
14.1% Alcohol  
Total Production 2755 cases

**2003 Harvest Report:** The general consensus among Napa Valley vintners and growers is that the 2003 growing season is one that they will not soon forget. Early rains and late heat spikes contributed to lower overall yields, but produced a vintage with high quality, great color concentration and intensity of flavors. The unpredictable nature of 2003 growing season began with a couple of early heat spikes in March, followed by the wettest April on record. Many felt that the first half of spring was the nastiest first half they had ever seen! As the season progressed, it looked as if there was going to be a late harvest, but a number of very warm days in the middle of summer helped push maturity along and we were suddenly predicting an early completion.

**WINEMAKING NOTES:** Our Estate program follows traditional French winemaking practices. 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 2003 vintage aged for 21 months in 45% new Tronçais, Nevers and Alliers oak (thin-staved, medium & medium-plus toast Chateau Ferre barrels. Tonnelleries: Seguin Moreau, Radoux, Demptos and Sylvain and 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, December 1, 2005.

**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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