

"PADRONE"



87% Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
8% Napa Valley Merlot
5% Napa Valley Cabernet Franc
Harvested at 25.2 Brix between August 27 and 31 2000
13.9% Alcohol
0.60 TA/3.61pH
560 Six-Packs Produced
Release Date: September 2003

PADRONE is dedicated to Ray Signorello Sr., a visionary whose dreams came to a reality in our wines at Signorello, and whose life was as full of character as our wines. **Padrone** is a wine that expresses the quality and dignity of Signorello Vineyards and is a fitting tribute to the life of Raymond Signorello Sr.

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 allowed the full natural flavors to develop on the vine. The result was a crop with excellent color, fully developed flavors and great acidity. Yields averaged 1.50 tons/acre in 2000

WINEMAKING NOTES: Our estate program follows traditional French winemaking practices. Native yeast induced fermentation. Techniques include the use of extended maceration (each lot averaged 35 days on the grape skins) and frequent pumping-over (3 times a day). The 2000 vintage aged for 22 months in 72% new Tronçais, Nevers and Alliers oak (thin-staved, medium-plus toast Chateau Frere barrels). Tonnelleries: 70% Seguin Moreau, 10% Sylvain and 20% Radoux. Barrels were topped monthly and racked every 4 to 6 months. To preserve fruit intensity and body, the wine was not fined or filtered prior to bottling July 24, 2002.

TASTING NOTES: The intense nose offers an enticing blend of vanilla and cassis aromas. Hints of cedar and tobacco, combined with the layers of fruit form a rich and perfectly balanced wine. Low yields and extremely small berries were selected resulting in a wine of uncommon concentration and complexity. The finish displays an intense purity of fruit and soft velvety tannins. This is a wine that will drink well in near term due to its rich ripe fruit, however it is also a wine to lay down and improve in the bottle for the next 20 years.

VINEYARD NOTES: Our estate vineyards on the Napa Valley hillsides east of the Silverado Trail provided the grapes. A variety of exposures increased the wine's 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 a concentrated and balanced fruit character. The vineyards are densely planted 1240 vine per acre and vertically trellised.

The grapes for this proprietary red wine "PADRONE" are sourced from two extremely rocky parts of our estate vineyard with yields of only a mere one and a half ton per acre.

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