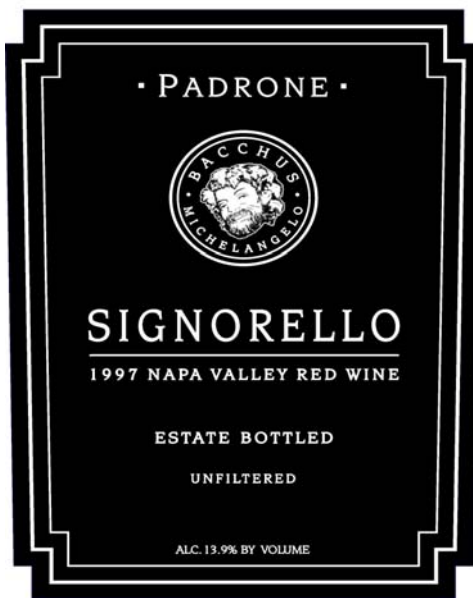


PREMIERE CUVÉE 2000



"PADRONE"

75% Napa valley Cabernet Sauvignon
16.5% Napa Valley Merlot
8.5% Napa Valley Cabernet Franc
Harvested at 24.5 Brix,
13.9% Alcohol
0.53 TA/3.74 pH
580 Six-Packs Produced
Release Date September 2000

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: 1997 Napa Valley growing season ended in an early and plentiful harvest. The season started when the warmth of the early spring triggered bud break almost one month early at the end of February. It was apparent from the beginning of the growing season the 1997 vintage would be an exceptional one. A temperate summer with moderate, steady temperatures allowed the fruit to reach optimal maturity with the full development of the varietal character.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Our estate program follows traditional French winemaking practices. Native yeast induce fermentation. Techniques include the use of extended maceration (each lot averaged 34 days on the grape skins) and frequent pumping-over (three times a day for thirty minutes). The 1997 vintage aged for 22 months in 90% new Tronais, Nevers and Alliers oak (thin - staved, medium-plus toast Chateau Ferre barrels). Tonnelleries: 75% Sequin Moreau and 25% Radoux. Barrels were topped monthly and racked every four to six months. To preserve fruit intensity and body, the wine was not fined or filtered prior to bottling in August 1999.

TASTING NOTES: The intense nose offers an enticing blend of vanilla and cassis aromas. Hints of cedar and tobacco combine with the layers of fruit to form a rich but perfectly balanced wine. Low yields and extremely small berries that were selected have resulted 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 and Merlot, Eastern slopes: Cabernet Fran and a second Cabernet vineyard. Crop level and vine growth were closely monitored to achieve balance and intensify 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 ton per acre.

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