



"PADRONE"

75% Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
15% Napa Valley Merlot
10% Napa Valley Cabernet Franc
Harvested at 24.2Brix
13.9% Alcohol
0.5 TA/3.72 pH
540 Six-Packs Produced
Release Date: September 2002

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 1999 Napa Valley growing season was long and cool allowing us to harvest extraordinarily clean, healthy grapes with excellent acidity and mature varietal fruit flavors. With growing conditions in 1999 similar to 1998, but cooler, grape clusters were very healthy with no sunburn. This year Napa Valley experienced its typical difference in daytime (warm) and evening (cool) temperatures that create optimal conditions for the development of balanced sugar and acid levels. Other than a trace of precipitation in mid September, rain was not an issue in 1999. Yields averaged 1-1.5 ton per acre in 1999.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Our estate program follows traditional French winemaking practices. Native yeast induce fermentation. Techniques include the use of extended maceration (each lot averaged 35 days on the grape skins) and frequent pumping-over (3 to 4 times a day). The 1999 vintage aged for 22 months in 80% new Tronçais, Nevers and Alliers oak (thin -staved, medium-plus toast Chateau Ferre barrels). Tonnelleries: 80% Seguin Moreau 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 August 20, 2001.

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 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 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 1.5 tons per acre.