

## 2003 SYRAH ESTATE



**95 % Napa Valley Syrah**  
**5 % Napa Valley Viognier**  
**Harvested at 25 Brix, on**  
**September 23, 2003**  
**14.2% Alcohol**  
**0.6 TA/3.77 pH**  
**300 Cases produced**  
**Release Date: September 2005**

**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 goal is to produce a full bodied complex wine in the Northern Rhone style that will age gracefully for many years. The must was pumped over 3 times daily to optimize extraction of the phenolic components (color and tannin). The wine was fermented with native yeasts and remained on the skins for 33 days before pressing and racking into 44% new French oak barrels for 15 months. The wine was bottled on December 1, 2004 without filtration.

**TASTING NOTES:** The 5% Viognier blended to the Syrah enhances the floral component to the nose. The light scent of lavender leads into flavors of vanilla, violet, blueberry and roasted coffee on the palate. The integrated tannins help achieve the long smooth finish. Drinkability 2005-2013.

**VINEYARD NOTES:** Our estate Syrah vineyard was planted in 1992 and is located on the Silverado trail in the Oak Knoll district. The split canopy maximizes the ripening of the fruit. Leaf removal, fruit thinning and dry farming are used to achieve the perfect maturity for these varietals.

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