

Tasting Notes

In traditional Mendocino style, this Cabernet Sauvignon is all about the fruit. The structure is there but the immediate impression is of lush dark fruit.

A swirl of the glass releases aromas of fresh cherry and, more subtly, Christmas spices. Raspberry and cherry preserves present themselves on the palate, but there's more... leather, light clove spice and cinnamon heat emerge toward the finish.

Technical Analysis

Varietal	98% Cabernet Sauvignon 2% Petite Sirah
Vineyards	98% Waddington Vineyard, Cabernet Sauvignon 2% Home Ranch Vineyard, Petite Syrah
Alcohol	13.5%
pH	3.56
TA	.60 g/100 ml
Total Cases	345



2003 Mendocino Cabernet Sauvignon

THE VINEYARDS

The benchlands and hillsides of Mendocino, cultivated since the mid-1800's, are well known for producing rich, fruity red wines of fine balance. In the Mediterranean-like climate of the inner Mendocino valleys, vineyards cool after sunset to a greater degree than in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys. As a result, this wine region preserves a pleasing balance of acid, sugars and alcohol that renders the wine balanced to the taste and suited to a long cellar life.

The Cabernet Sauvignon grapes for this bottling came from the Waddington Vineyard located at the southeast end of the Ukiah Valley on the Talmage Bench. The hillside plantings enjoy a southwest exposure and consist of red clay soils mixed with gravel and rock.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were harvested by hand and underwent fermentation in closed vessels. The wine was aged for 18 months in 50% French and 50% American oak barrels. The aging process allowed the tannins to soften and integrate without compromising the lovely fruit character and complexity in the wine.