

## Tasting Notes

This 2003 Mendocino Syrah boasts off-the-scale aromas and a rich, full body.

Aromas of brambly blackberry, toasted coconut and warm vanilla bean entice the senses. A sip continues the impression with ripe blackberry and black cherry fruit followed by toasted vanilla on the finish. Altogether, a harmonious package of fruitful flavors and fine balance.

## Technical Analysis

Varietal	100% Syrah
Vineyards	100% Mendocino
Alcohol	13.5%
pH	3.70
TA	.63 g/100 ml
Total Cases	250



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### 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 Napa or 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 Syrah fruit in this bottling comes from the historic Home Ranch Vineyard surrounding the old Parducci homestead north of Ukiah.

### WINEMAKING

The grapes were harvested by hand and underwent fermentation in closed vessels. The wine was aged for 18 months in a combination of French oak (68%) and American oak (32%) which imparted savory notes of vanilla and spice. The aging process allowed the tannins to soften and integrate without compromising the lovely fruit character and complexity in the wine.