

Tasting Notes

The Archangel Vineyard derives its character from its Rutherford site, showing ripe, full bodied fruit and a firm structure. Like the preceding vintages, the 2003 Archangel bottling offers appealing fruit flavors smoothly integrated with softly rounded tannins.

Highly approachable, the aromas hint of cherries and spices. A sip suggests sweet cherry fruit, black pepper and cocoa. Oak aging, deliberately restrained, plays a supportive role. Moderate in alcohol, the wine offers a classic balance of acid, sugars and alcohol that assures a pleasing pairing at the dinner table and a long cellar life.

Technical Analysis

Varietal	99% Cabernet Sauvignon 1% Petite Sirah
Vineyards	85% Archangel Vineyard, Napa Valley 14% Waddington Vineyard, Mendocino 1% Home Ranch Vineyard, Mendocino
Alcohol	13.5%
pH	3.69
TA	.55 g/100 ml
Total Cases	100



2003 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

THE VINEYARDS

Three acres of loamy vineyard surround the Thoma home on Archangel Vineyard in the north quadrant of Rutherford Viticulture Area in Napa Valley. This area of bench land is partial to Cabernet Sauvignon as evidenced by the proximity of the premium Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards for Pine Ridge, Flora Springs, Whitehall Lane and Livingston. The Archangel Vineyard was planted in 1996 on tight 6x6 spacing. Yields are a moderate 2 tons per acre.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were harvested by hand and underwent fermentation in closed vessels. The wine was aged for 18 months in a mix of old and new French (85%) and American (15%) oak barrels. The aging process allowed the tannins to soften and integrate without compromising the lovely fruit character and complexity in the wine.