



GUNDLACH  
BUNDSCHU  
EST. 1858

## 1999 RHINEFARM VINEYARD CABERNET FRANC

### VINTAGE

1999 was a superb year for cool-climate Cabernet Franc in the Sonoma Valley, with moderate temperatures resulting in an extended hang time. Warm temperatures at the end of September and beginning of October gave the Cabernet Franc a final push to ripeness, yet the elegant balance is maintained. Here finesse is emphasized over brawn, providing an inevitable resemblance to Chinon from the Loire Valley.

### VINEYARD

The seven-acre Cabernet Franc parcel on Rhinefarm is found in the La Paz section of the vineyard at an elevation of 250 feet. With its southeastern exposure, considerable slope and rocky soils, it provides an outstanding site for Cabernet Franc. Most of the vines must struggle to reach root depth, producing deeply colored, extracted and balanced wines. The wines that come from this parcel are among the best of our Cabernet-family wines.

Clone: Mt. Veeder

Planted: 1987

Average Yield: 2 to 3 tons per acre

### WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand picked and delivered to the winery in the cool morning hours where it was destemmed and conveyed into stainless steel fermenters. The fermentation lasted 12 days in tandem with twice-daily gentle pumpovers. Pressed at dryness, the Cabernet Franc free run was separated from the press fraction. After one racking in tank, the wine was aged for 12 months in medium toast American oak barrels (30% new). The wine was unfinned, and lightly filtered prior to bottling.

### WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

The 1999 Rhinefarm Vineyard Cabernet Franc displays an unusual aromatic profile of ripe plum, clove and fresh tobacco leaf aromas. The palate is plush on the entry, showing saturated boysenberry and cassis flavors. Despite the richness of the front and mid-palate, the wine displays great finesse, with integrated tannins and a crisp, chewy finish.

### ANALYSIS

Harvested October 23, 1999

Brix: 24.5 TA: 0.59g/100ml pH: 3.49

Bottled in March, 2001

Alcohol: 14.4 % TA: 0.59g/100ml pH: 3.69

Release date: June 1, 2001