GUNDLACH BUNDSCHU

1999 VINTAGE RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

VINTAGE

1999 was a low-yielding, outstanding vintage for red wines in the Sonoma Valley, with moderate temperatures during the growing season and warmer temperatures at the end of September and early October. This progression provided a slow, even rate of maturity and physiological ripeness for Cabernet Sauvignon early in the season.

VINEYARD

The Vintage Reserve is taken from a 30 year old Cabernet Sauvignon block situated at the highest elevation of all our estate plantings. Planted in 1969, it produces our most complex Cabernet Sauvignon, for a variety of reasons. Its position on Rhinefarm's southwest-facing benchland slope is exposed to more sunlight hours and heat during the growing season. Also, the topsoil, only 24 to 28 inches deep, consists of bone white bleached volcanic ash and natural organic humus. The site orientation, soil composition and shallow topsoil depth consistently provide concentrated, black fruit and complex aromatics.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were hand harvested and delivered to the winery in the cool morning hours where they were destemmed, gently crushed and delivered to small stainless steel fermenters. The must was inoculated with prepared yeast and pumped over twice daily throughout fermentation. Upon dryness the wine was pressed and racked to French oak barrels, 50% new. After 14 months of aging the wine was filtered to bottle.

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

The elegant 1999 Vintage Reserve exemplifies the character of this 13-acre block in its 30th year. Dark ruby color, aromas of allspice, dusty herbs and black fruit lead to complex layers of black plum, cocoa, toast and black olive flavors, backed by traces of mineral and earth. Fine grain tannins convey the rich flavors through a long, subtle finish.

ANALYSIS

Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases Produced: 189

Harvested October 21 & 22, 1999

Brix: 24.4	TA: 0.75 g/100ml	pH: 3.65

Bottled in June 2001

Alcohol: 14.2%	TA: 0.56 g/100ml	pH: 3.68

Jeff Bundschu, Sixth Generation Vintner

Linda Trotta, Winemaker

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