

GUNDLACH BUNDSCHU

2002 RHINEFARM VINEYARD MOUNTAIN CUVÉE

VINTAGE

The 2002 growing season began with an early budbreak and cool spring followed by a heat spike in early July which reduced yields and promoted the development of exceptional flavor concentration in the remaining fruit. A very warm, rain-free autumn brought the unusually small crop to even ripeness.

VINEYARD

The grapes for our Mountain Cuvée come predominantly from young plantings on our own Rhinefarm Vineyard and portions of wine lots that were not quite up to the rigorous quality standards of our Estate wines. With perfect southwest exposure and rocky, well-drained soils, Rhinefarm Vineyard produces wines with varietal character and a silken mouthfeel, even in the young-vine fruit used in this blend

WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand picked and delivered to the winery in the cool morning hours, then destemmed and conveyed into stainless steel fermenters. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Syrah were each fermented in separate lots, with gentle, twice-daily pumpovers. Each lot was pressed at dryness, and then racked into barrels. The wine was aged for 14 months in predominantly French oak; minimal use of American and Hungarian oak barrels added coconut and spice nuances. After blending, the finished wine was bottled unfiltered and lightly filtered.

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

Delightfully fragrant, with aromas of cedar, vanilla and spicy oak, this inviting red is has a rich and supple mouthfeel and intense, dark cherry flavors backed by nuances of dried tobacco and chaparral. The firmly structured finish is long and smooth, with lingering cocoa and cherry notes. Enjoyable now, it will continue to improve in the bottle over the next four to five years.

ANALYSIS

Blend: 75% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 2% Syrah

Cases Produced: 6,919

Harvested October 2002

Brix: 25.8

TA: 0.62 g/100ml

pH: 3.58

Bottled in June 2004

Alcohol: 14.4%

TA: 0.56 g/100ml

pH: 3.61



Jeff Bundschu, Sixth Generation Vintner



Linda Trotta, Winemaker

