



2012 Vintage Reserve, Sonoma Valley

VINTAGE RESERVE

- Since 1981, the Bundschu family has crafted a limited bottling from the vintage's most elegant and expressive with the designation Vintage Reserve.
- Executive Winemaker Keith Emerson selects individual barrels to blend a wine that showcases the distinctive character of Cabernet-family grapes grown on the southwest slopes of the Mayacamas Mountain Range.
- Our 150+ year old estate vineyard lies 8 miles north of San Pablo Bay on steep, shallow soils of volcanic ash and tufa, exposed to pervasive maritime breezes, long daylight hours and extreme diurnal temperature shifts. Top blocks are farmed specifically for Vintage Reserve yield 2.5 tons/acre.
- A few miles north of our estate along the ridge at an elevation of 2,000+ feet lies Bismark Mountain Ranch, with similar soils and exposure and slightly warmer temperatures. Lots sourced from this high elevation site add weight to the midpalate and a juicy component to the well-structured Cabernet Sauvignon from our cooler-climate estate vineyard.

WINEMAKING & ANALYSES

- Five lots hand- and optically-sorted and gravity fed to fermentation vessels.
- Five day cold soak; D254 and indigenous yeast strains. 28-32 days maceration.
- Extraction through gentle pumpovers tailored by lot, using louvers and screens to eliminate pumping skins and seeds.
- Twenty months in 100% French oak, 65% new. Thin stave, tight grain. Primary cooper: Taransaud, Ermitage and Demptos.
- 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec
- 14.9% alcohol. TA 059.g/100ml. pH 3.88
- 1044 cases produced. Released August 2015.

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

The Vintage Reserve represents the pinnacle of what Gundlach Bundschu produces each year. In 2012, Mother Nature blessed us with an exemplary growing year for great Bordeaux-style wines on Rhinefarm. A little more feminine and finesse driven than some of her peers to the east, the 2012 Vintage Reserve is a powerful Cabernet Sauvignon-based wine that provides the muscle you would expect from a flagship wine with the elegance, polish and refinement that can only come from a cool climate. Bold, seductive aromas waft out of the glass to greet the olfactory receptors with chocolate-covered blueberries and beautiful notes of violets and lavender, intermingled with the warm aromatics of Darjeeling tea and brown spices. On the palate, the wine is both mouth-filling and lush yet refined, showing a decadent core of blackberry and black currant with some earthy tones leading into a pleasingly long finish nuanced by fresh espresso and tinges of graphite. The structure is supported by well integrated but young tannins and a well-balanced acidity, culminating in yet another fantastic expression of the Vintage Reserve that reminds you why the Bundschus have been known for Bordeaux-varietal wines since the 1800s. More than satisfying right now, this wine will slowly reveal everything she has to offer if you can hold on to her for the next 5 to 20 years.

Jeff Bundschu
Sixth Generation Vintner

Keith Emerson
Winemaker



ABOUT THE LABEL

Vintage Reserve is a Bundschu family tradition that began in 1981. Each vintage, we select only our very best Bordeaux-variety grapes to craft this singular blend, then we commission an artist to create each Vintage Reserve label to be as unique as the wine inside. Artist Nate Reifke immersed himself in Rhinefarm, quietly rambling the vineyard and using its native chalky soils, clay loam and stone to create intimate and ephemeral works of art in balance with timeless surroundings. 'Connection' is the second label in our Groundworks series. For more information about the artwork and artist, please visit www.gunbun.com/vr.