



Vintage:	<b>2003</b>
Varietal:	<b>Bordeaux-Style</b> Cabernet Sauvignon 28%, Merlot 52%, Cabernet Franc 16%, Malbec 4%
Appellation:	Rogue Valley (OR) 69%, Red Mountain (WA) 31%
Vineyards:	Ciel du Cheval , Taptiel, Eve, Matador (WA), Del Rio (OR)
pH:	3.64
Total acidity:	0.62 g/Liter
Alcohol:	15.5%
Cases produced:	1410
Case weight:	39 lbs
Case size:	15" x 11" x 12" (12 bottles)
UPC:	7 12196 60014

### **Harvest report**

The fruit was harvested from Ciel du Cheval, Taptiel, Eve, and Matador Vineyards on Red Mountain in Eastern Washington and Del Rio Vineyard on the Rogue River in Gold Hill, Oregon. Harvest began on September 13 and was completed on October 24th. This vintage was exceptional and again, has proven to be yet another fine harvest for overall quality, with full, even ripening, yielding balanced sugars and acids.

### **Winemaking process**

The fruit was destemmed and lightly crushed with 50% whole berry and the addition of 8% whole clusters into 1½ ton open-top fermenters. After inoculation with a number of cultured yeast strains, it was punched down twice daily and given an average 21 day extended maceration on the skins. Following a light pressing, it was put into a mixture of new and neutral French oak barrels on its gross lees for 6 months. When malolactic fermentation was complete, it was racked and returned to barrel for an additional 16 months and bottled without filtering or fining.

### **Tasting notes**

Both appellations are very distinct but equally complimentary. Red Mountain produces big wines which are highly structured with firm tannins whereas Del Rio Vineyard yields wines that are very fragrant, plush and softer in texture. By combining the two, we have achieved a wine that is rich, vibrant, and uniquely Northwest. Aromas of plum, blackberry, and blueberry are off-set with notes of chocolate, mineral and green olives. Cassis, ripe blackberry and cherry follow through to the pallet accompanied by nuances of leather and cedar. A sweet entry is well balanced with juicy acids and supported by focused tannins, giving the impression of an intensely ripe wine with a lingering richness. Properly cellared, this wine should continue to develop over the next 5 to 10 years.



***Northwest Red Wines of Distinction***