



Vintage:	2003
Varietal:	93% Sangiovese, 7% Syrah
Appellation:	78% Rouge Valley (OR) 22% Red Mountain (WA)
Vineyards:	Del Rio, Ciel du Cheval
pH:	3.56
Total Acidity:	0.69 grams/100 mL
Alcohol:	14.8%
Cases produced:	1018
Case weight:	39 lbs.
Case size:	15" x 11" x 12" (12 bottles)
UPC:	7 12196 40001

Harvest report

Harvested between September 19th and October 15th, the grapes were picked at an average of 24.3 degrees Brix, pH of 3.71, and 0.59 grams per liter titratable acidity. The year 2003 was a warm and dry year with an extended dry period that typifies summer and autumn in these regions. Thus, the fruit was able to hang long enough to achieve optimal ripeness, resulting in very rich, ripe flavors. Yields were held down to less than 2 tons per acre.

Winemaking process

The fruit was fermented 50% whole berry with approximately 5% whole clusters added to the fermenters. It was cold soaked for five days, and fermented with a combination of natural and commercial yeasts. Fermentation was done in 1½ ton open-top bins, punched down twice daily and lightly pressed off after about 20 days. Press fractions were kept separate and the wine was moved immediately to older French oak barrels where it was aged for 17 months. The wines finished malolactic fermentation in late spring, and were racked off and bottled in April 2005.

Tasting notes

Aromas of dried cherry dominate with notes of raspberry and white pepper, touched with a floral nuance. Bright cherries and red raspberry show prominently on the entry, followed by notes of black tea and leather. While the Syrah lends to the rich, soft entry and floral notes, it is the Sangiovese that provides the bounty of cherry flavors, acidity on the mid-palate and structured tannins on the finish, ultimately creating a blend that is characteristically food friendly. Overall, the impression is that of a robust wine possessing ripe fruit, quenching acidity and soft but lingering tannins. It is expected that this wine will continue to drink well over the next several years.



Northwest Red Wines of Distinction

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