

TRUCHARD VINEYARDS



1997 Syrah

Vintage: Ideal conditions throughout the spring of 1997 resulted in excellent berry set and a very large crop. Warmer summer temperatures steadily brought the fruit to maturity and led to an early harvest. Despite the larger yields and relatively quick ripening, this "record harvest" produced fruit of outstanding quality. 1997 wines show exceptional depth, intensity, and balance.

Vineyard: Syrah is grown in the "Highlands" region of the Truchard Estate Vineyard. This area is dominated by austere hillsides composed of volcanic rock and ash. Planted in 1990, the vines benefit from the unique combination of soil, southwest exposure, and cool Carneros temperatures. The result is a full-bodied wine, with flavors and structure reminiscent of the northern Rhone.

Harvest: September 16 & 20 • 24.7 °Brix • 3.58 pH • 6.4 g/l TA

Winemaking: All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed into open top fermenters with approximately 20% whole berries. Four individual lots were inoculated with Pasteur Red yeast. Fermentations were punched down twice daily, with the temperature peaking at 88° F. After 14 days of maceration, each lot was pressed and allowed to settle in tank before going to barrel. The wine was aged for 10 months in both French (90%) and American (10%) oak; 30% of these barrels were new. Rackings occurred every 4 months until bottling in August of 1998. This wine is very drinkable upon release, but will soften and develop further complexity with additional time in the bottle.

Wine Analysis: 14.3 % alcohol • 3.65 pH • 6.1 g/l TA

Tasting Notes: Powerful aromas of blackberry, black cherry, and white pepper; with subtle highlights of earthiness and sweet vanilla. The mouth begins with a core of cassis, blackberry jam, and cracked black pepper, ending with hints of mineral and leather. Round, chewy, tannins provide an opulent finish of fruit and spice.

Release date: April 1, 1999

Cases Produced: 1424

Bottle Price: \$30.00

3234 OLD SONOMA ROAD NAPA, CA 94559
TEL 707-253-7153 707-252-8864 FAX 707-253-7234