

RC RESERVE 2000

*Niebaum-Coppola*



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2000  
**RC**  
**RESERVE**  
No 2493  
GROWN, PRODUCED & BOTTLED ON THE ESTATE,  
FETHERFORD, CALIFORNIA

# 2000 RC RESERVE



*Niebaum-Coppola*

ESTATE, VINEYARDS & WINERY

Niebaum-Coppola is proud to introduce the first vintage of RC Reserve, an Estate Syrah. Developed by Francis and Eleanor Coppola's son, Roman, RC Reserve is a wine of defined character, rich texture, and intense, pure flavors.

RC Reserve is made to reflect the terroir of this renowned Rutherford property. Syrah has a wonderful personality here and makes deeply colored, very rich, heavily textured wines. Winemaker Scott McLeod and Roman Coppola worked together to lay out the concept of the wine—defining a wine that was very direct, one that showed off the quality and pedigree of the grape. Roman also designed the label, which reflects that same sincerity and directness used in defining the wine.

## Vineyard Notes

The core of RC Reserve is Syrah. The Niebaum-Coppola Estate is in the heart of Cabernet country, renowned for producing some of the finest Cabernet and Cabernet-based wines in the world. However, some portions of the Estate are not suitable for growing great Cabernet – those locations are planted to other varietals such as Syrah, Cabernet Franc, and Zinfandel. The original Syrah planting on the property was in 1996 in the Gate vineyard. Planted to Syrah clones 1-7 from the Barossa field station in Australia, the Gate vineyard is very diverse with heavier soils and less cobble than other blocks. Petit Verdot, Zinfandel and Cabernet Franc are also planted here. These vines produce intense, flavorful fruit with low tannins. Both the Syrah and Petit Verdot in RC Reserve were harvested from this vineyard.

The Merlot for RC Reserve came from the Gio vineyard. Planted in 1988, this vineyard is recognized for its fleshy, forward and ripe fruit as it receives full sun, with a shady late afternoon reprieve from Mt. St. John to the west.

## Vintage Notes

The 2000 vintage was a classic, late Napa Valley harvest. Spring temperatures were mild, delaying the onset of summer. This led to an extended cool summer that fostered a slow and

even maturation of fruit on the vine. Fall temperatures were mild and sunny, allowing the grapes extended hang time on the vine, to reach optimal physiological ripeness before harvest in late October.

## Winemaker's Notes

We have always been fans of the great Australian Syrah wines, because we share a similar climate, and really a similar philosophy of winegrowing. We finally gave in to the temptation of growing Syrah in Rutherford and chose the Australian clones for our first planting in the Gate vineyard. The first vintage of RC Reserve is entirely from this selection of Syrah.

Great Syrah has the unmistakable character of boysenberry and a mixture of cassis and blackberry, but clearly is dominated by the racy sweet smell of boysenberries. The 2000 RC Reserve has the telltale stamp of these traits. Petit Verdot is blended in for its black pepper and sage characteristics, not to mention its incredibly textured palate and silky smooth tannins. The Merlot contributes the blueberry flavors that round out this wine. Our goal is to make a wine of obvious Syrah base, but with the blended additions of other characteristics found in the Petit Verdot and Merlot. The result is a wine that speaks more of a place than an individual variety. The wine is aged in a combination of new French and new American oak for 21 months, bringing together the robust flavors of the French barrels and the great spice element from the American oak. The 2000 RC Reserve is a wine made to drink now yet is suitable for extended cellaring.

Scott McLeod, Winemaker

Roman Coppola, Proprietor

<b>APPELLATION:</b> Rutherford, Niebaum-Coppola Estate	<b>BARREL REGIMEN:</b> 21 months French and American oak barrels	<b>TOTAL ACID:</b> .57/100ml	<b>CASE PRODUCTION:</b> 588 (6 pack cases)
<b>VINEYARD:</b> Gate and Gio Organically Grown		<b>ALCOHOL:</b> 14.1%	<b>pH:</b> 3.59
<b>BLEND:</b> 84% Syrah, 10% Petit Verdot, 6% Merlot		<b>BOTTLED:</b> August 10, 2002	<b>RELEASED:</b> April 22, 2003