



AMERICA'S GRAND WINE ESTATE

Rubicon Estate



2003 RC RESERVE SYRAH

HISTORY

Inspired by the great Australian heavyweights of Barossa and McLaren Vale, Roman Coppola and the Rubicon Estate winemaking team conceived a rich, heavily textured Syrah reminiscent of those much loved Shirazes. The unique temperate climate of Rutherford, with its alluvial soil and eastern exposure, offers envious conditions for producing Syrah with the same great concentration and personality. Roman Coppola designed the label for RC Reserve Syrah, selecting bold typeface and simple artwork to parallel the pure character and intense flavor of the bottle's contents.

THE VINEYARDS

Although Rubicon Estate resides in the heart of Cabernet country, portions of the property are extremely well suited to other red grape varietals, such as Syrah. In 1996, Syrah clones #1 and #7 from the Barossa Field Station were planted in the loamy soil of the Gate Vineyard. More recently, we planted another 5.5-acre parcel on Pritchett Hill with clones #2, #4 and #6. Both fruit sources demonstrate ripe, clearly defined Syrah flavors.

ORGANIC FARMING

Rubicon Estate is farmed organically out of respect for the environment and our vineyard staff, as well as our belief that organic grapes make better wine. Our vineyards are certified organic by California Certified Organic Farmers (www.ccof.org).

THE VINTAGE

The 2003 growing season in Rutherford commenced with spring rain and cool temperatures, creating a naturally low yield. Summer temperatures were relatively moderate, but autumn arrived with added warmth to transform the vineyards and deliver a winning vintage. The three-week stretch of 90-degree temperatures in October pushed the grapes into full ripeness, resulting in beautifully developed tannins and intensely flavored fruit.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

We have always been fans of the great Australian Shirazes because Australian producers share a similar philosophy about winemaking, preferring minimal intervention and bold use of oak barrels to create fruit-driven wines with supple tannins.

TASTING NOTES

The 2003 RC Reserve Syrah has a distinctive aroma of violets, vanilla and cranberries. On the palate, sweet ripe flavors of blueberries and cranberries are framed in a supple texture. The wine has a classic structure, making it less showy in its youth than in the previous vintage. With a little age, the 2003 RC Syrah will reveal the complexity and longevity that was the result of an extended growing season and flawless harvest conditions.

APPELLATION:	RUTHERFORD, CA
BLEND:	99% SYRAH, 1% MERLOT
VINEYARD:	100% ESTATE-GROWN AND ORGANICALLY CERTIFIED; GATE AND PRITCHETT HILL
BARREL REGIMEN:	29 MONTHS FRENCH AND AMERICAN OAK BARRELS
CASE PRODUCTION:	418 (750ML) 6-BOTTLE CASES
ACID:	.57/100ML
	PH: 3-74
ALCOHOL:	14.3%
RELEASED:	APRIL 2006

Scott McLeod – Winemaker