



AMERICA'S GRAND WINE ESTATE

Rubicon Estate



2007 RC RESERVE SYRAH

HISTORY

Inspired by the great Australian heavyweights of Barossa and McLaren Vale as well as by the more pedigreed Syrah-based wines from the Northern Rhone of France, Roman Coppola and the Rubicon Estate winemaking team set out to create a unique Syrah that combined the nuance and texture of the Old World with the powerful fruit of the New World. The classic temperate climate of Rutherford, with its alluvial soil and eastern exposure, offers envious conditions for producing rich, opulent Syrah.

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

All 235 acres of vineyards on the Rubicon Estate are farmed organically out of respect for the environment, the vineyard staff, and the intrinsic value of our property. Of equal importance is our belief that organic grapes make better wine. Our vineyards are certified organic by California Certified Organic Farmers (www.ccof.org).

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 budded a 12-acre parcel in the Chateau Vineyard Block S3 with clones #2, #4 and #6. Both fruit sources demonstrate ripe, clearly defined Syrah flavors. The Chateau Vineyard is the most exotic, with wild spice and savory aromas, whereas the Gate Block is the heavyweight, with dense structure and opaque color.

THE VINTAGE

The weather during the 2007 growing season was considered 'classic.' There really isn't much more to say. The season was dry, with few heat spikes during the summer, and the fall was glorious. October provided ideal conditions for the late stages of ripening, with warm, dry weather and temperatures reaching into the mid to high 80's. After all the dramatic weather of the previous year, our 2007 Syrah harvest was seamless.

WINEMAKING NOTES

A portion of the grapes was whole cluster fermented in order to extract the maximum amount of flavors and aromas from both the fruit and stems. The stems, if they are ripe, offer precise aromas of cigar ash and white pepper. Because we blend several clones of Syrah, we can create a highly complex wine that has both power and finesse. The 2007 also contains a bit of Petite Sirah, which adds a high toned violet character and dark chocolate.

TASTING NOTES

The 2007 RC Reserve Syrah delivers layers of wild berry, cherry and forest floor scents of brambles and earth. Densely textured and brimming with fine, ripe tannins, it offers excitement for its youth but will age for twenty years. Not subtle by any measure, the new vintage of RC Reserve is powerful and extracted and has the presence of great wine from a great vintage.

APPELLATION:	RUTHERFORD, CA
BLEND:	97% SYRAH, 3% PETITE SIRAH
VINEYARD:	GATE, CHATEAU S3 AND N3 (PETITE SIRAH)
BARREL REGIMEN:	16 MONTHS FRENCH AND AMERICAN OAK BARRELS
ACID:	.59/100ML
PH:	3.74
ALCOHOL:	14.5%
RELEASED:	APRIL 2010


Scott McLeod ~ Winemaker