



2013 RC RESERVE SYRAH

HISTORY

Roman Coppola, a Syrah aficionado fond of both the Australian heavyweights as well as the more pedigreed Syrah-based wines from the Northern Rhone, worked with the Inglenook winemaking team to create an estate Syrah that combined the nuance and texture of ‘old world’ Syrah with the powerful fruit of ‘new world’ Syrah. Although Inglenook is primarily planted to Cabernet, Rutherford’s temperate climate, alluvial soils and eastern exposure where our Syrah vines are planted offer envious conditions for producing a rich, opulent wine.

THE VINEYARDS

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 with the Chateau Block offering exotic spice nuances and savory aromas, and the Gate Block delivering dense fruit with immense color saturation.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Over the last few years, we’ve refined our winemaking methods, using smaller boxes for picking, a new destemmer that is gentler on the fruit, and we apply greater scrutiny during the fermentation process by evaluating individual blocks of fruit daily to determine which will benefit from pump overs. Also, this vintage, we implemented by-the-hour pay for our pickers rather than by-the-ton, as an additional quality measure that encourages our vineyard staff to pick more slowly, be gentler with the fruit, and focus on selecting higher quality clusters as a means of pre-sorting. Because these methods greatly enhance the quality of the wine, it is our goal to continue this technique with all future vintages.

TASTING NOTES

Highly aromatic with a lush, full-body, our 2013 RC Reserve Syrah offers a dramatic bouquet that blends aromas of raspberry, plum, tobacco leaves, and smoke. Balanced acidity and supple tannins support this well structured wine where increasing volume on the palate and notes of blueberries, blackberries, violets, and white chocolate create layers of complexity enlivened by a sting of black pepper on the finish.

APPELLATION:	RUTHERFORD, CA
BLEND:	99% SYRAH, 1% PETITE SIRAH
VINEYARDS:	GATE, S3
BARREL REGIMEN:	18 MONTHS, 50% FRENCH OAK, 50% AMERICAN OAK; 35% NEW OAK
ALCOHOL:	14.5%

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