

Rubicon reflects the richness and the ripeness of the Niebaum~Coppola Estate. The deep ruby red hue of this wine is a result of the perfect ripening of the Cabernet Sauvignon blended with Merlot for extra flavor dimension and Cabernet Franc to lift and intensify aromatics. Rubicon is not made to reflect any one varietal. Instead it is a representation of the renowned property from which it comes.

The Cabernet Sauvignon grapes in the 1994 Rubicon are based on the Cabernet clone imported by founder Gustave Niebaum over a century ago. When grown on the soils of the Rutherford Bench, the Niebaum clone has a distinctive style, one that has become the trademark of the Niebaum~Coppola Rubicon.

The decade of the 90's will undoubtedly be noted as one of the most exciting in Napa Valley history. The 1990 vintage, the first of these massive wines, made it obvious to wine lovers that Napa Valley was off to a great start. Too date, the most anticipated vintage of this decade is 1994. At first glance of the 1994 Rubicon, it is obvious that the vintage is unprecedented. Rich and dense red black color allude to its ripeness and power. The wine is immediately engaging with wonderful sweet aromas of red cherries, black licorice and cocoa notes so reminiscent of the Niebaum~Coppola Estate.

Winemakers Notes: The wine possesses a sweet core of ripe cherry and cassis fruit that overrides a firm, elegant structure of soft, fine yet abundant tannins. Flavors are inviting and intriguing, typical of Cabernet, but

1994 RUBICON

Rutherford, California



"It is a large-scaled, well-balanced wine with a saturated ruby/purple color, copious quantities of spicy, black currant fruit and a layered, concentrated finish with admirable power and sweet tannin."

~ 91 – 94 ~

—Robert Parker, Jr., The Wine Advocate

enhanced when this varietal is grown on the Niebaum~Coppola Estate. As with all great vintages it reflects merit in its finish. The 1994 Rubicon persists on the palette almost indefinitely.

Vineyard Notes: The 1994 Rubicon, as all Rubicons, begins with the cornerstone block of Cabernet Sauvignon from the Garden vineyard. This vineyard was planted in 1965 on St. George rootstock and to the original Niebaum clone of Cabernet that founder Gustave Niebaum brought over in 1882. It is an amazing Cabernet vineyard that contributes the truly identifiable black cherry and violet perfume to Rubicon. It is beyond dense, nearly opaque, and supremely concentrated. By itself, it is almost too powerful. As the foundation of Rubicon, it is perfection.

There are many other blocks of beautiful Cabernet, though. The 12 acre Gio vineyard, planted in 1988, is consistently a major contributor to Rubicon with its sweet red fruit aroma and flavor. This vineyard is all about charm and it balances out the raw power of the Garden vineyard beautifully.

WINE MAKING ANALYSIS: 1994 Rubicon				<i>Niebaum-Coppola</i>	
Vineyard: Niebaum-Coppola Estate		Blend: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc			
Alcohol: 14.1% by volume	Total Acid: .60 gm/100 ml	pH: 3.56	Barrel Regimen: 24 months new French Oak		
Case Production: 3481	Bottled: February 1, 1997		Released: March 15, 1998		