



## **2002 Monte Rosso Zinfandel**

Appellation: Sonoma Valley  
Harvest Date: 10/2/02  
Tons: .82  
Brix: 28.5  
Alc.: 17%  
pH: 3.66  
TA: .72 g/100ml  
Yeast: D80/43  
Malo-Lactic: 100%  
Production: 47 cases  
Vineyard Clone: Unknown  
Vineyard Age: 60-125 years  
Rootstock: St. George  
Vine Spacing: Mixed  
Trellis: Head Trained/Dry Farmed  
Soil Type: Fine soil of volcanic origin with crumbled rock and reddish color  
Elevation: 900-1200 feet  
Aging: 18 months, 60 gallon barrels; 100% New French Oak  
Composition: 100% Zinfandel

### **Vineyard History**

Near Aqua Caliente in Sonoma County, Monte Rosso consists of roughly 240 acres of vineyards. If there was a "first growth" for zinfandel, this would be one of the vineyards. The land was purchased by Emmanuel Goldstein and planted in 1880. Louis M. Martini purchased the 600-acre Goldstein Ranch in 1936, and renamed it Monte Rosso. Sections of Zinfandel planted in the 1890's are still producing grapes. The soils are iron rich, highly porous and undoubtedly well drained, allowing vines to develop extensive root systems reaching to considerable depths.

Monte Rosso is considered a low region II environment due to its proximity to San Pablo Bay, and high elevation. The land is virtually frost-free. The mornings are warmer than Napa and Sonoma Valleys. On the other hand, the afternoons are cooler so the vines suffer less from excessively high heat. Except for the youngest vines, the vineyard is dry-farmed. This results in less than 3 acres per ton of fruit.

### **Cellar Practices**

Due to the ripeness of the grapes, fermentation was long and sluggish. This resulted in a very complex Zinfandel that's not for the faint of heart. The must almost reached 30 degrees Brix and 17% alcohol!

We made 14 barrels of Monte Rosso, but due to the fact that after the 2002 harvest Gallo bought the vineyard, we sold 12 of the barrels to Rosenblum and kept 2 for ourselves. The 2002 vintage was our first and last vintage for Monte Rosso.

### **Tasting Notes**

This wine is hedonistic to the extreme, almost like a Late-Harvest Zinfandel. Loads of brambleberry, dusty raspberry, and black cherry on the nose. The palate is rich, with a long sweet finish.

