



## **2003 Rhodes Vineyard Cuvée Isabel**

Appellation: Redwood Valley  
Harvest Date: 10/23/03, 10/24/03 & 11/2/03  
Tons: 4.57  
Brix: 25.7  
Alc.: 15.6%  
pH: 3.98  
TA: .55 g/100ml  
Yeast: D80/Syrah/D21/D43  
Malo-Lactic: 100%  
Production: 173 cases  
Vineyard Clone: Unknown  
Vineyard Age: 45-90 years  
Soil Type: Pinole Gravelly Loam  
Elevation: above 800 feet  
Aging: 18 months, 60 gallon barrels; 70% French Oak, 30% American Oak, 60% New Oak  
Composition: 39% Zinfandel, 35% Petite Syrah, and 26% Syrah

### **Vineyard History**

Redwood Valley, located in Mendocino County, has a strong coastal influence. The ocean breezes can drop the temperature 50 degrees F between day and night. This helps create a long growing season, which makes Rhodes one of our latest fruit sources to be picked.

The Rhodes vineyard is farmed without the use of pesticides and herbicides. Nutrients are added through the use of composts, ground cover, and foliar sprays. The trellising varies between bi-lateral cordon and head pruned vines, both of which are drip irrigated.

### **Cellar Practices**

For the 2003 vintage we used greater amounts of Petite Syrah and Syrah to create a dark, rich cuvée that still shows a great amount of Mendocino character and elegance. The cellar practices were the same as those used for our syrah, i.e. during fermentation the wine is punched 5 times per day to extract as much color and flavors as possible. Once fermentation was complete, the wine was pressed into 60 gallon oak barrels. Five different cooperages were used for the 2003 vintage.

### **Tasting Notes**

As with one's child, they change, they want to express themselves a bit differently, become more independent and show what they can do. Isabel is now five and as she has changed, we wanted to let the wine express this also. This year we decided to let the vineyard express itself and produce the wine thus not being held back to making this wine a Zinfandel. A blend varietals from the Rhodes includes old vine Petite Syrah, old vine Zinfandel and the introduction of Syrah has produced a wine that shows the darker side of the Rhodes Vineyard more then ever before. The wine still has that blackberry pie filling in a cinnamon crust, but just a touch more on the wild side.