



ARAUJO ESTATE WINES 2002 ALTAGRACIA

WINEGROWING INFORMATION

The 2002 growing season began with warm dry weather, after a winter of normal rainfall that ended early in the year. The dry soils produced a light crop of small-berried clusters, which were thinned at the green harvest in June. A beautiful, mild summer ensued, marked by ideal conditions of warm days, and cool, even cold nights. At the end of August and into September, temperatures rose over the century mark, hastening sugar development in the grapes. Selective harvesting of young grapes began on September 11th, while older blocks continued to develop their intense flavors, concentrated by the heat. The last cabernet was picked during the cool night hours of September 23rd to 25th and delivered to the winery at complete phenolic ripeness. The fruit was sorted, de-stemmed, and cold-soaked, undergoing native yeast fermentations and extended macerations in small stainless steel tanks. The wine was aged in 100% new French oak barrels for 22 months and bottled in July of 2004. The lots chosen to create Altagracia represent the exuberant ripe flavors of our younger Cabernet Sauvignon vines, blended with Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Merlot.

TASTING NOTES

Although the second cabernet of the estate, the 2002 Altagracia is a serious wine with superb, complex aromas of cherry, leather, dusty potpourri and spice. The flavors of deep red fruit, crème de cassis and chocolate are densely packed into the opaque, concentrated wine, finishing with ripe juicy tannins and a long mineral finish. Notes winemaker Francoise Peschon: *This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Merlot gives the wine incredible depth and power, with firm but supple tannins, and amazing persistence of flavor with sweet undertones of blueberries and cedar. It is perfectly balanced and drinkable now, but it will also age gracefully for many years.*

GRAPE SOURCE

58% Cabernet Sauvignon Eisele Vineyard
14% Cabernet Franc Eisele Vineyard
14% Petit Verdot Eisele Vineyard
14% Merlot Eisele Vineyard
Napa Valley

PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol: 14.85%
Total Acid: 0.56
pH: 3.90
Production: 710 cases
Release Date: June 1, 2005

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