



ARAUJO ESTATE WINES 2003 ALTAGRACIA

WINEGROWING INFORMATION

Following a warm winter with above average rainfall, the start of the 2003 growing season was delayed by a cool spring and an unusually wet April that reduced the fruit set and cluster size. A benign summer ensued, with classic conditions of cool, foggy mornings followed by long summer days of temperatures mostly in the 80's, allowing flavors to develop well in advance of sugars. Some long-awaited heat arrived in mid-September, bringing the small crop of already flavorful grapes to full phenolic ripeness. Harvest began on September 17th, and continued until October 24th. The grapes were picked and delivered to the winery during the cool pre-dawn hours. The fruit was sorted by hand, de-stemmed, and cold-soaked, and underwent native yeast fermentations and extended macerations in small stainless steel tanks. The wine was aged in 100 new French oak barrels for 21 months and bottled in July, 2005.

TASTING NOTES

The 2003 Altagr acia expresses the vibrancy of our younger Eisele Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon grapevines, blended with estate Petit Verdot and Merlot. The second cabernet of the estate, it is a serious, full-bodied wine with opulent fruit and seamless tannins. It exhibits a beautiful bouquet of black currants, blackberries and cherry jam, spiced with perfumed sandalwood, licorice and sassafras. Notes winemaker Francoise Peschon: *This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Merlot produced a sophisticated wine of deep color and smooth, silky tannins. Its rich cassis flavors and clean, long-lasting mineral structure give it a distinctive balance and harmony. It is ready to drink now, but will easily age for many years.*

GRAPE SOURCE

87% Cabernet Sauvignon Eisele Vineyard
6.5% Petit Verdot Eisele Vineyard
6.5% Merlot Eisele Vineyard
Napa Valley

PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol: 15.4%
Total Acid: 0.56
pH: 3.83
Production: 740 cases
Release Date: May 1, 2006

2155 PICKETT ROAD · CALISTOGA, CA 94515
P 707.942.6061 · F 707.942.6471