



2012 RC RESERVE SYRAH

HISTORY

Roman Coppola, a Syrah aficionado fond of both the Australian heavyweights as well as the more pedigreed Syrah-based wines from the Northern Rhone, worked with the Inglenook winemaking team to create an estate Syrah that combined the nuance and texture of ‘old world’ Syrah with the powerful fruit of ‘new world’ Syrah. Although Inglenook is primarily planted to Cabernet, Rutherford’s temperate climate, alluvial soils and eastern exposure where our Syrah vines are planted offer envious conditions for producing a rich, opulent wine.

THE VINEYARDS

In 1996, Syrah clones #1 and #7 from the Barossa Field Station were planted in the loamy soil of the Gate Vineyard. More recently, we budded a 12-acre parcel in the Chateau Vineyard Block S3 with clones #2, #4 and #6. Both fruit sources demonstrate ripe, clearly defined Syrah flavors with the Chateau Block offering exotic spice nuances and savory aromas, and the Gate Block delivering dense fruit with immense color saturation.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Over the last few years, we’ve refined our winemaking methods, using smaller boxes for picking, a new destemmer that is gentler on the fruit, thereby causing less oxidation, and we’re applying greater scrutiny during the fermentation process by evaluating individual blocks of fruit daily to determine which will benefit from pump overs. These improvements greatly enhanced the quality of the 2012 vintage, which is sure to go down in the books as one of the best vintages of the decade. The Syrah we harvested was very ripe and concentrated, showing great extraction and tremendous flavor complexity.

TASTING NOTES

This intensely aromatic, full-bodied Syrah unleashes a torrent of flavors and fragrances. From scents of blackberries, vanilla, and spices to grilled meats, tobacco leaves, violets, lavender and sandalwood, the voluminous palate delivers layered complex flavors of wild berries, figs, lavender, toffee and caramel. Balanced acidity and silky tannins that coat the palate create a powerful structure and superb integration of these lush flavors show further on the finish.

APPELLATION:	RUTHERFORD, CA
BLEND:	95% SYRAH, 5% PETITE SIRAH
VINEYARD:	GATE, S3
CASE PRODUCTION:	1,600
ALCOHOL:	14.2%
RELEASE DATE:	APRIL 2014

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