

NADEAU

Family Vintners

2002 Mixed Black

Estate Reserve Blend

The **Winery**

Nadeau Family Vintners is the result of years of effort by Robert Nadeau and his wife, Patrice. Together they renovated a tiny barn in the mountains west of Paso Robles, transforming it into an efficient, well-equipped micro-winery. Old-world styled vineyards have been planted on the slopes surrounding the building...most of the planting is dedicated to dry-farmed, head-trained Zinfandel, with an acre or so devoted to Grenache Noir and Petite Sirah. Situated at the top of Peachy Canyon, the property is generally above the morning fog and usually receives about twice the rainfall seen below in Paso Robles.

The **Wine**

This full-bodied blend is comprised of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, and Grenache – all from our Estate-grown fruit.

American oak barrel-aging has lent the **2002 Mixed Black** mildly aggressive oak tannins accompanied by subtle toasty-oak nuances. This well-structured wine features a full, round mouthfeel with dark fruit aromas and flavors. The Zinfandel in the blend really pulls the raspberry forward, while the Grenache lends the wine a slight earthiness and pepper character. It's no surprise that the Petite Sirah offers the blend dense, black color and a wonderful layer of soft tannin. This wine will certainly benefit from 1 – 3+ years in the cellar.

The **Blend**

3 Barrels Zinfandel
2 Barrels Petite Sirah
1 Barrel Grenache

The **Vital Statistics**

100% Paso Robles Appellation
100% 2002 Vintage
Harvest date: September 8, 2002

The three **estate** cuvees are fermented individually in open-top fermentors with commercial (proprietary) yeast. These grapes were fermented for 5 – 7 days on their skins then pressed in a small, horizontal basket-press. Racked using only a nitrogen blanket and/or gravity. Aged in *American Oak Barrels* for 17 Months. Final blending in November 2003, then racked, filtered and bottled *unfined* in March 2004.

The 2002 Vintage yielded just 175 cases.