

NADEAU

Family Vintners

2003 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.

This wine is very similar to the 2002 bottling which was very well received. American and European barrel-aging has lent the **2003 Mixed Black** soft oak tannins accompanied by subtle spice nuances. This well-structured wine features a pleasant, round mouthfeel with dark fruit aromas and flavors. The Grenache provides the blend with a slight earthiness and pepper character, while the Zinfandel in the blend really pulls the fruity raspberry notes forward, and the Petite Sirah lends its dark color and soft tannin to the finished blend. This wine will certainly benefit from 3 to 5+ years in the cellar.

The **Blend**

2 Barrels Zinfandel
1 Barrel Petite Sirah
1 Barrel Grenache

The **Vital Statistics**

100% Paso Robles Appellation
100% 2003 Vintage
Harvest date: September & October, 2003

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 22 months. Final blending in May, 2005 then racked, filtered and bottled *unfined* in August 2004.

The 2003 Vintage yielded just 101 cases.