



## 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon

### T.R. Passalacqua Vineyard (Dry Creek Valley)

Situated in the western hills above Sonoma County's Dry Creek Valley, the T. R. Passalacqua Vineyard produces some of the best Cabernet Sauvignon in Northern California. This vineyard receives full daytime sun with cool night air, an ideal combination to develop the intense fruit flavors that characterize this wine.

Harvest was on October 21, 2003. The sky was clear and the air was cool and crisp. The fruit was harvested by hand and sorted in the field.

During fermentation, winemaker Joe Otos achieved maximum extraction of flavors and soft tannins while minimizing harsh tannins associated with the seeds. The resulting wine is intense, but balanced.

After fermentation, Joe barrel-aged the wine in 100% premium French oak, with 35% new barrels, principally tight-grained oak from the best French forests. The final wine is richly flavored with black currant and blackberry flavors and hints of cocoa, cured tobacco leaf and anise. The entry is sweet with a silky middle. Overall, the wine is rich, seductive and well structured. Compared to the 2002 wine from this vineyard, the 2003 has lower acidity which makes it suitable for a wide range of foods. The tannins are well balanced. While it is enjoyable now, we think this wine will age well for many years. To promote this long aging potential we have selected a heavy bottle and sealed it with an extremely long cork (54mm).

About 600 cases were produced. The alcohol content is 14.3%, the TA is 6.34 and the Ph is 3.42.

It won **Gold Medals** at the **2006 San Diego International Wine Competition**, the **2006 California State Fair**, the **2006 West Coast Wine Competition** and the **2006 Lone Star International Wine Competition**.

*We decided to release this wine at the same time as the 2002 vintage is still available because it is so strikingly different than the 2002 and we think that our customers will enjoy making the comparison.*

*It is available in 375ml, 750 ml, 1.5L and 3L bottles. The 3-liter bottles are etched and hand-painted and make a striking display. They will be available for the 2002, 2003 and 2004 vintages, making possible an impressive vertical collection.*

Joseph C. Otos, Winemaker