



SYRAH 2002

YOUNTVILLE • NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE

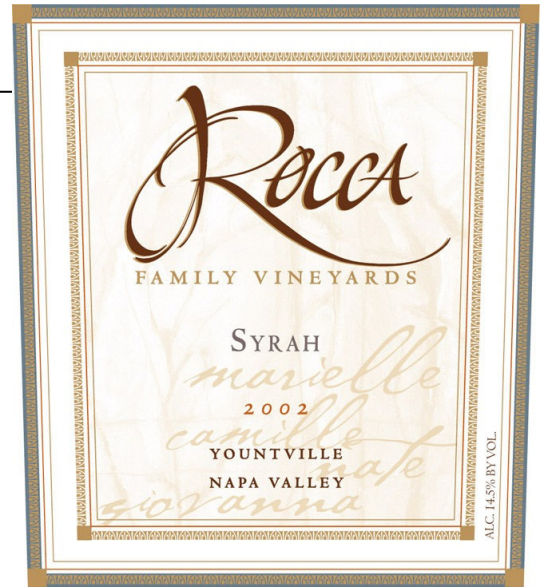
2002 was another vintage the winemakers celebrated! It was easily a winegrowers vintage - all the elements were in place to make fabulous wines. June was mild, a short heat wave in July, followed by temperatures in the mid 80's to 90's. A fairly leisurely ripening period through September allowed for excellent flavor development. The vines for this wine were carefully grown on our Yountville Crossroad Estate, and harvested at the peak of flavor.

WINEMAKING

Our winemaker, **Celia Welch Masyczek**, works closely with Sergio Melgoza, our vineyard manager, as they both believe that making great wine begins in the vineyard. As a team they determine the picking date more by taste than analysis. After picking the grapes at the peak of ripeness, the 2002 Syrah was destemmed gently, without rollers, to provide the maximum number of whole berries. After a brief period of cold-soaking, it was fermented in an open top tank and punched down by hand three times each day until dry. After pressing, the young wine went directly to small French oak barrels (65% new, 45% used) for a total of 19 months of barrel age. Blended with just a touch of Estate Merlot and Estate Petite Sirah to provide complexity and structure, the 2002 Rocca Syrah was minimally filtered prior to bottling in May 2004.

TASTING NOTES

The 2002 Syrah shows a wonderful array of aromas, with ripe red and black fruit balanced by hints of fresh herbs and white pepper. On the palate, the wine is lush and complex, displaying an exceptional balance of fruit and earth. Concentrated flavors of baked cherries and blackberries intermingle with classic Syrah flavors of savory spice and roasted meat. Its firm acidity, the result of our vineyard's location, adds brightness and makes this Syrah an ideal pairing with meats and chesses.



Appellation:	Yountville, Napa Valley
Estate Vineyard:	Crossroads Vineyard
Fermentation:	On skins for 2 weeks then transferred into barrels
Ageing:	19 months in French Oak barrels, 65% new
Bottling:	May 17, 2004
Varietals:	95% Syrah, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Petite Sirah
Alcohol:	14.5%
Release Date:	June 2005
Cases Produced:	550 cases
Suggested Retail:	\$42.00