

*Uncorking centuries
of artisan excellence.*



Appellation: *Russian River Valley*

Vineyard: *Herrick Vineyards*

Harvest: *September 2003*

Brix: *25.5°*

Blend: *85% Merlot*

10% Cabernet Sauvignon

5% Petite Verdot

Alcohol: *15%*

pH: *3.62*

Retail Price: *\$22.00/375 ml Bottle*

Cases Produced: *134*

Release Date: *October 2005*

Winemakers Notes:

A full-bodied Merlot with charming aromas of warmed blueberries, cedar and violets.

With the first sip, splashes of fresh blackberry and currant fill the mouth. Light roasted coffee complemented by spices and a whisper of eucalyptus round out the long, lingering finish.

Sixteen acres of Merlot are planted on a hillside vineyard nestled 200 feet above the Russian River, just west of Healdsburg. The soil is gravelly clay and speckled loam. The climate includes cool, foggy nights and hot days. The vineyard is low vigor and though trellised on a two-wire vertical system, it yields only about three tons per acre. The Merlot vines are the Sterling clone, which features a very small berry and yields intensely colored and extracted fruit. This wine is very balanced and will age well. It was fermented and aged in 45% new French oak barrels for 18 months.

D'Argenzio Winery Inc.

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