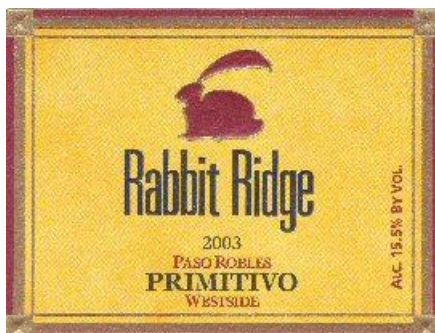




PRIMITIVO



VINTAGE 2003
APPELLATION Paso Robles
VARIETAL Primitivo
HARVEST DATE 9/5/03 - 9/18/03
BRIX AT HARVEST 24.8
ALCOHOL 15.5%
MA 4
UPC CODE 7 28691 44762 0

VINEYARD PROFILE

The 2003 Paso Robles Primitivo is produced from grapes grown on our Cristalla Ranch vineyard which surrounds the main winery on San Marcos Road. The vines from this vineyard are from an old clone that was grafted for Rabbit Ridge.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

For optimum grape quality we planted the vines three feet by six feet and we maintain low picking yields of under two tons per acre. Because of its similarity to California's Zinfandel, this wine hosts a punch of bold, fruity flavors. Our 2003 Primitivo was barrel-aged for approximately nine months in French and American oak for balance and softness. 3,000 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES

Our Paso Robles Primitivo is deeply colored, rich and concentrated with notes of blackberry, raspberry and spice.

VARIETAL INFORMATION

The earliest knowledge of this varietal is that it originated in Greece. It is not known exactly how or when this plant was transported into Italy, but the history of this grape in Italy dates back many centuries. In the 17th century, it is known that the Benedictine monks named the varietal "Primitivo" because of its precociousness (early maturity of the grape) in this zone.

Primitivo has been called many things, but it is also known as the father of the Zinfandel grape, now so popular in California. In recent years, DNA studies at the University of California at Davis show that the Zinfandel grape is the same as the Primitivo grape grown in southeastern Italy's Puglia region.

Primitivo is deeply colored, rich and concentrated with flavors of zesty cherry, clove, wild blackberry, raspberry and spice. This is a fine wine to cellar (over 20 years), but it should be enjoyed young for its charming, vibrant fruitiness.

Source: www.cal-italia.org

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