



2004
Superiore



Vineyard Notes

Located on a mountainside high above Dry Creek Valley, the rocky soils of our estate Cabernet and Syrah vineyards produce intensely flavored grapes at naturally low yields. Using sustainable practices and organic materials, we farm our estate vineyards without chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides.

Yields were pushed lower in 2004 due to the cold, wet, dark spring of 2003. Our regulated deficit irrigation practices caused the individual grapes to be much smaller thus even more intensely flavored. Given the smaller number of bunches with smaller berries in 2004, we were further rewarded with wonderfully mild and even summer temperatures—the harvest was our earliest on record. What a spectacular year!

Winemaker's Notes

We fermented each varietal separately with its own yeast to bring out the natural berry flavors of the Syrah and the spicy complexity of the Cabernet. The Cabernet underwent a short cold soak, 14-day fermentation, and 4-day extended maceration in stainless steel tanks. The Syrah underwent a short cold soak, 11-day fermentation, and no extended maceration. The wine was blended in May 2005 and bottled after aging for 24 months in French oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

The aroma of this wine conveys a classic blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah: juicy berries underpinned by complex spiciness. The succulent black cherry and cassia aromas develop on the smooth palate along with deep flavors of chocolate with floral tea accents. This wine carries the hallmarks of Montemaggiore: rich and mouth-filling yet elegant, with well-integrated oak and a long finish.

Montemaggiore Superiore will improve with time in your cellar. If opened within the first few years of release, we suggest you decant it for an hour or two before serving.

Technical Data

Varietal Blend	70% Cabernet 30% Syrah
Avg Sugar at Harvest.....	26.0° Brix
Alcohol.....	14.6%
Cooperage.....	100% French
Percentage New Oak.....	53%
Harvest Date.....	September 2004
Bottling Date	September 2006
Cases Produced	400
Optimum Consumption	2007-2015
Suggested Retail Price	\$40 per bottle