

# TRUCHARD VINEYARDS



## 1996 Syrah

- Vintage:** 1996 was a rather warm vintage, which brought the fruit to maturity more quickly than in previous years. However, the earlier than normal harvest did not affect the flavors or diminish the intensity of the Truchard Syrah.
- Vineyard:** The vineyard is on the Truchard Estate located in the Carneros region of the Napa Valley. The Syrah grows on the rocky, volcanic soils, which are found in the "Highlands" area of the Truchard vineyards. The unique combination of steep hillside, southwest exposure, and marine influences, gives our Syrah flavors and structure similar to wines of the northern Rhone.
- Harvest:** September 21 & 22 • 24.8 °Brix • 3.56 pH • 6.3 g/l TA
- Winemaking:** All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed into open top fermenters with approximately 20% whole berries. Three individual lots were inoculated with Pasteur Red yeast. Each fermentation was punched down twice daily, with the temperature peaking at 88° F. After 14 days of maceration, the lots were pressed and allowed to settle in tanks before going to barrel. The wine was aged in both French (90%) and American (10%) oak; 30% of these barrels were new. Rackings occurred every 4 months until bottling in August of 1997. This wine is drinkable at release, but will continue to develop complexity with additional time in the bottle.
- Wine Analysis:** 14.3 % alcohol • 3.64 pH • 5.8 g/l TA
- Tasting Notes:** An intriguing nose of Bing cherry, white pepper, and blackberry, with a hint of sweet vanilla. The palate has cassis, blackberry jam, and black pepper, with round, mouth-filling tannins that linger in the intense fruit/spice finish of this full-bodied wine.
- Release date:** April 1, 1998  
**Cases Produced:** 1324  
**Bottle Price:** \$27.00

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