

May 8, 2003

Wine & Business

Wine of the Week

2000 Rudd Jericho Canyon Red – Napa Valley (\$100)

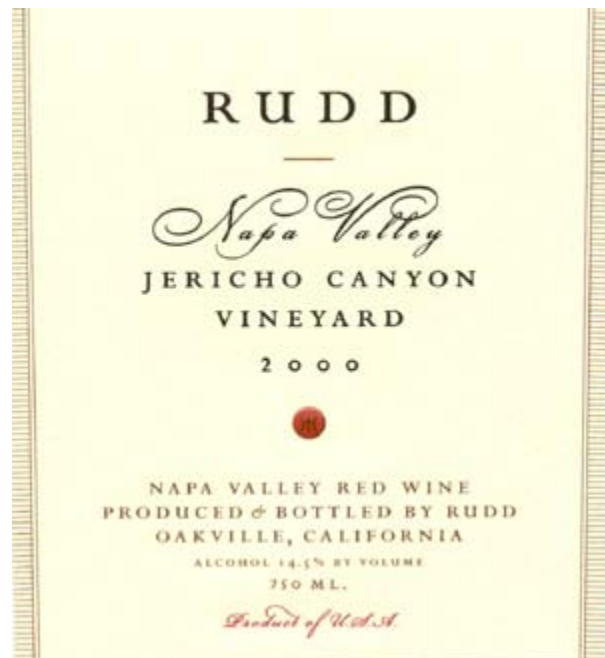
This is Rudd's final red blend from Jericho Ranch. The three-year contract with Dale Bleacher's vineyard on the eastern slope of the Vaca Mountains at the northern tip of the Napa Valley, has run its course.

The assemblage (53 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 29 Merlot, 17 Cabernet Franc and 1 Petit Verdot), is from 18-year-old vines planted on 12 steeply-sloped blocks. The Cab was harvested on the 3rd of November.

The blend has produced a Bordeaux-style wine that is soft and seductive and which shows wonderful balance and a long, long finish. The tannins are evident enough for mid-term aging. Hold it for a couple of years and then drink over the next 15.

The juice went through natural malolactic on native yeasts and then spent 18 months in 50 percent new French wood. No filtration, nor fining was employed during bottling. The listed alcohol is 14.5, the pH is 3.70, and the TA is 6.0. Only 2,500 cases were produced.

— ALAN GOLDFARB



(from www.sthelenastar.com - Wine & Business section)