

1998 JERICHO CANYON VINEYARD

Jericho Canyon, a sunswept basin at the northern end of Napa Valley, provides a perfect environment for growing red Bordeaux grape varieties, all painstakingly planted on steep terraces. While northern Napa is known for its summer heat, a gap in the Mayacamas Range allows cooling winds to create temperatures at this vineyard similar to those found at Rudd's home vineyard in Oakville, farther south. This temperate climate is particularly conducive to producing a wine of great elegance and finesse.

Harvest 1998 was one of the longest on record. The Jericho Canyon grapes were hand-selected during a three-week period beginning the second week in October to ensure that only the ripest clusters were collected. As a result, mature, ripe flavors such as blackberry, cassis and black cherry form the core of the wine, framed handsomely in toasty oak and spice nuance. The wine was aged in barrel for 14 months and then bottled, without fining or filtration, in June of 2000.

BLEND 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc

APPELLATION Napa Valley

FERMENTATION Native yeast and natural malolactic

AGEING Fourteen months in French oak; 42% new

CASES PRODUCED 2800

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE \$100