



2003 Reserve

Schramsberg Reserve is our top Pinot Noir-focused brut sparkling wine. Typically representing about 3 percent of our annual production, this richly flavored and full-bodied sparkler is made from only the finest base-wine lots produced each year. Six years old upon release, this fruitful, yet dry, toasty and creamy bubbly will age gracefully for a good 20 years beyond the vintage date.

More than 100 cool-climate vineyard sites in Carneros, Anderson Valley and the Sonoma and Marin coastal areas are managed each year to achieve the best possible fruit for our sparkling wines. Hand-picking, early-morning harvesting and light pressing are critical. Small amounts of select Chardonnay are included in the blend to lend additional backbone and length to the palate. Distinct barrel and malolactic fermentation lots are layered in to provide viscosity and depth. Extensive tasting is conducted over the winter months, with as many as 200 base wines being taken into consideration. Following bottle fermentation, each bottle is aged in contact with its own yeast in our historic Diamond Mountain hillside caves for a minimum of five years. The finishing dosage is the result of comprehensive trials to fine-tune balance of flavor and acidity.

Our Reserve is well-suited with a main course, such as fruit-stuffed veal, pork tenderloin, roasted duck with mango, cedar-plank grilled salmon and curried chicken salad. This flavorful bubbly can also be served as an apéritif with smoked oysters, caviar and hard cheeses such as aged Swiss Sbrinz, Sonoma Vella Jack or Irish Coolea.

Vintage Notes

The unpredictable nature of the 2003 growing season began with a series of early heat spikes in March, followed by the wettest April on record. A long, cool summer allowed the fruit flavors to evolve beautifully ahead of the sugar accumulation. Heat spikes in September helped move the harvest forward after many felt it would be a late year.

Tasting Notes

The 2003 Reserve has youthful aromas of red apple and juicy pear followed by Rainier cherry. The fruit is accentuated by holiday spices — such as nutmeg and clove — as well as warm pie crust. Upon first taste, there are generous flavors of Satsuma orange, candied pineapple and strawberry, in addition to some peach. The palate is elegant and concentrated, with a quenching acidity and a long, lingering finish. — *Winemakers Keith Hock and Hugh Davies*

Appellation:	North Coast
Varietal Composition:	75% Pinot Noir, 25% Chardonnay
County Composition:	33% Mendocino, 31% Sonoma, 19% Napa, 17% Marin
Principal Pinot Noir Blocks:	
<i>Mendocino County:</i>	Corby, Juster
<i>Sonoma County:</i>	Saltonstall
<i>Marin County:</i>	Stevens
Harvest Dates:	August 30-September 22
Barrel Fermentation:	40%
Alcohol:	12.7%
TA:	0.86g/100ml
pH:	3.07
RS:	1.1g/100ml
Bottling Date:	April 21, 2004
Aging:	6 years, 6 months
Disgorgement Date:	November 2, 2010
Cases Produced:	1,467 (6/750ml)

