



HALTER RANCH  
VINEYARD



## ESTATE RESERVE 2003 ANCESTOR™

*Composition:* 60% Syrah  
40% Cabernet Sauvignon

*Harvest Date:* Syrah –  
Block 4, Sept. 18  
Block 5, Sept. 23  
Cabernet Sauvignon – Block 30, Oct. 8

*Barrel Aging:* 18 months in French oak, 100% new

*Alcohol:* 15.4%

*pH:* 3.50

*TA:* 0.65 g/100 ml

*Bottled:* July 1, 2005

*Production:* 110 (12 x 750 ml)  
10 cases (6 x 1.5L)

*Retail Price:* \$44

### WINEMAKER NOTES:

*Ancestor*, our Estate Reserve, represents the best wine we can make each year from our estate grapes, without regard to varietal or blending restrictions. We made this inaugural Estate Reserve by selecting and blending exceptional barrel lots of our very best estate Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon from the 2003 vintage. Only five barrels out of more than 150 were chosen for the blend, which displays the beautifully rich, ripe fruit, plush, well-integrated tannins and superb structure and balance. We hope you enjoy this pure expression of our estate vineyard.

### THE STORY BEHIND THE ESTATE RESERVE:

Halter Ranch is home to an ancient *Quercus Agrifolia*, more commonly known as Coast Live Oak. Surrounded by our estate vineyard, this tree is one of the largest specimens of its kind in the world. Officially designated a "champion tree" by the American Forestry Association, its canopy actually reaches the ground on all sides, creating a unique sheltered refuge. Surviving the elements over the centuries, including drought, fire and windy storms, this tree stands as a testament to the rich history of this land.

Rows of Rhône and Bordeaux varieties grow in concert around this quiet giant, seeming to carry on its determination to thrive. As such, making a small-lot wine from these vines, in honor of this amazing tree, came as a natural conviction. We chose *Ancestor* as the name for our Halter Ranch Estate Reserve simply because it was perfectly fitting. This ancient, massive tree is certainly predecessor to most everything on the property, and it has been witness to the evolution of the ranch itself. The finished wine represents not only the finest our estate vineyard produces, but our commitment to preserving history while looking to the future of this ranch.

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