



HALTER RANCH  
VINEYARD



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## 2004 RANCH WHITE

*Composition:* 40% Viognier  
30% Roussanne  
15% Marsanne  
15% Sauvignon Blanc

*Harvest Date:* Viognier – Block 35, Aug. 28  
Roussanne – Block 39, Aug. 30  
Marsanne – Block 38, Aug. 30  
Sauvignon Blanc – Block 26, Aug. 29

*Barrel Aging:* 12 months sur lie in neutral French oak barrels

*Alcohol:* 14.6%

*pH:* 3.33

*TA:* 0.62 g/100 ml

*Bottled:* January 6, 2006

*Cases:* 119 cases (12 x 750ml)

### WINEMAKER NOTES:

Our first release of Ranch White is an innovative blend of three white Rhône varieties – Viognier, Roussanne and Marsanne – plus Sauvignon Blanc. It was aged one year in neutral French oak barrels sur lie (on the yeast lees) for enhanced texture, richness and complexity. In the nose, the wine offers fragrant honeysuckle and beeswax aromas, while the palate delivers a round, creamy texture, fresh, lively flavors and a crisp, clean finish.

### VINTAGE 2004:

Rainfall for the period of December 2003 through March 2004 was 50% to 60% below normal, totaling less than 20 inches. Storms in February provided much needed soil moisture for the start of the growing season. A spell of unseasonably warm weather at the end of April spurred shoot growth, helping to ensure a good canopy for ripening. Temperatures and growing conditions remained favorable during the summer, creating a positive transition to the fruit ripening cycle. Our first harvest of white grapes were picked the last three days of August, just before a heat wave of 100 plus temperatures set in during the first week of September. Warm temperatures provided the final push to ripeness for many of our Rhône varieties, with the Syrah harvest beginning as soon as the weather cooled on September 9th. Milder temperatures through the balance of the month allowed the harvest to proceed at a steady pace, with the last of the Cabernet being harvested on October 1st. Overall, the wines show exceptional ripeness, with all our reds displaying beautiful deep color and very plush tannins. 2004 promises to be one of the finest vintages since 1994.