



THIRTEEN

WHAT THIS WINE IS ABOUT

Wines have an extraordinary capacity to reflect the environment in which they're grown. A point not lost on the current crop of American vintners eager to have their wine express increasingly smaller plots of land.

Against this trend of vineyard-designated wines comes THIRTEEN—a wine made not from a single vineyard but from a baker's dozen, each one more esteemed than the next. What distinguishes these vineyards is that they have been chosen as the best representatives of their respective sub-appellations: Howell Mountain, Rutherford, etc. Napa Valley has 13 of these sub-appellations, or did, when we picked the fruit. (More on this in a moment.) The idea behind THIRTEEN was to blend one ton of grapes from each of these 13 vineyards to create a wine that is conspicuously connected to Napa Valley. A wine that is the truest expression of what the Valley has to offer.

“A new wine is
both an invention
and a discovery.”
Hugh Johnson

As far as we know, no one has ever tried to capture Napa in its totality. Our guess is, no one's even thought of it. It is, after all, a daunting task to collect grapes from every soil type, every microclimate, every terroir. But the question remains: is this invention of ours a good idea? We'll leave that for you to discover.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

“The fruit across Napa Valley in 2003 was dense, rich and complex, yet full of wonderful varietal character. The grapes came in fast due to a warm spell in the late summer. There was slight dehydration in most vineyards, which causes flavors to concentrate. This was definitely to our advantage. The wine is powerful in its texture with the same rich fruit-forward character as the 2002 release. The hillside depth and the valley jam are very much alive in this one!” — Steve Reynolds

13 (AND COUNTING)

This will be the last release of THIRTEEN because, in 2004, a fourteenth appellation was added. Our next release will reflect that fact. Can you guess what the name will be?