

# 2000 Meritage

## Ladi's Vineyard

### Sonoma County

Cabernet Sauvignon 62%  
Merlot 33%  
Cabernet Franc 5%

**A**rt and tradition come together in the Deerfield Ranch 2000 Ladi's Meritage, a Bordeaux-style blend that accentuates balance and complexity.

The Vineyard: Ladi Danielik, who has been repeatedly named the Best Grower in Sonoma County, gives exceptional attention to his small 17-acre vineyard in the foothills east of Santa Rosa. Ladi grows grapes that, through the partnership with Deerfield winemakers, Robert Rex and Michael Browne, produce consistently outstanding wine.

**The Vintage:** The Millennium vintage was a difficult one for many California growers. Early fall rain prevented late season varietals from ripening properly. We chart the vintages for weather and variable growing patterns. This allowed us to predict a weaker vintage and take steps to maximize ripening potential by pruning early, leaving fewer buds on each vine and by thinning fruit early in the season. These measures were successful in 2000 allowing us to pick the grapes in optimum condition. Good growers and winemakers make good wine in less than perfect years. We think you will find, in the enjoyment of this Meritage, the success of our extraordinary efforts.

**The Wine:** The individual lots were made separately and blended after two years of barrel aging. The blend was then returned to our best French and American oak barrels for a third year, giving the Meritage a wonderful smoothness and complexity that makes it a delight to drink when young while retaining great aging potential. Ladi Meritage is a testament to the years of dedication, experimentation and accomplishment in the science and art of grape growing and winemaking. We produced 550 cases.

#### Harvest & Winemaking Data:

Winemakers:	Robert Rex and Michael Browne
Harvested:	By hand, October 2 and 12, 2000
Brix at Harvest:	23.5 CS, 26.2 MR, 24.1 CF
Acid at Harvest:	6.9g/L CS, 5.8g/L MR, 7.1g/L CF
pH:	3.35 CS, 3.42 MR, 3.28 CF
Yeast:	Bordeaux Red
Fermentation:	19 to 26 days open-tops, hand punched
Max. Fermentation Temp:	92° to 96°F
Aging:	34 months in 80% French Oak, 20% American Oak, 35% new
Fining:	none; Filtration: Screened at bottling
SO <sub>2</sub> at Bottling:	22 ppm free
Bottled:	525 cases – August 20, 2003
Alcohol:	14.2%
Residual sugar:	0%
Released:	April 1, 2004
Awards & Reviews:	Not yet submitted
Age worthiness:	12 to 15 years

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