

2000 Syrah

Ladi's Vineyard

Sonoma County

Deerfield Ranch Winery, in the heart of Sonoma Valley at Kenwood, specializes in small lots of handmade wines from select vineyards in the California North Coast region. Production totals 9000 cases of a number of varietals, each a true expression of its appellation and terroir. Visit our Website at www.deerfieldranch.com, or call 707 833-5215

The Vineyard: Ladi's Vineyard is situated in the foothills of the Rincon Valley, east of the Santa Rosa plain. The shallow, red, volcanic soil, the slope and the exposure (the terroir) of this small, 17-acre vineyard is ideally suited to Syrah. Ladi Danielik has a unique talent for growing grapes. Each vine is individually pruned, trellised and trained to its specific needs. Three-time Gold Medal recipient for "Vineyard of the Year" at the Sonoma County Fair Wine competition, Ladi's Vineyard is the most highly decorated in the competition's history.

The Wine: We employed many of the traditional techniques used by winemakers of central France's Rhone Valley from which this grape originated. The grapes were very gently destemmed without ever being crushed, which preserved more than 1/2 of the whole berries and fruit flavors in the wine. The grapes were fermented in a large, open-top, redwood vat, hand punching the cap 3 times-a-day, never pumping. Fermentation temperature peaked at 30°C to extract the maximum color and body. The wine aged for 10 months in 75% French and 25% American oak barrels to add just the right touch of oak.

Tasting Notes: The deep, brilliant red has hints of blue around the edges. When swirled in the glass, glycerin generates ribbons of pleasing color. The nose evokes images of ripe berries drizzled with chocolate and vanilla, soaking in a cedar bowl. There's a gentle earthiness reminiscent of a walk in the forest on a cool evening. The taste follows these cues layering on notes of earth, leather, maple and dried roses. There is an overall marriage of tastes that linger in every corner of the mouth, well after the swallow. There is harmony and balance with excitement thrown in for good measure. Our 2000 Syrah is full like a Cabernet, mellow like a Merlot, brash like a Zinfandel, flowery and rich like no other. It's a grounded wine that brings out the best in red meats, game, grilled vegetables and wild mushrooms.

Harvest & Winemaking Data:

Winemakers:	Robert Rex & Michael Browne
Harvested:	By hand, October 19, 2000
Brix at Harvest:	23.5°
Acid:	.68g/L
pH at harvest:	3.60
Yeast:	Syrah (French origin)
Fermentation:	In open top tank for 11 days
Barrel aging:	75% French, 25% American 40% new oak.
Max. Fermentation Temp:	93°F
Malo/Lactic Conversion:	100%
Fining:	none
SO ₂ at Bottling:	12 ppm
Bottled:	September 18, 2001
Cases bottled:	600
Alcohol:	12.7%
Released:	January 15, 2002
Awards & Reviews:	94 points, <i>Wine Enthusiast</i> , Sept, 2002
Age worthiness:	6 to 8 years.

