



Monte Volpe



2001 MONTEPULCIANO

MENDOCINO

Background: Montepulciano is the largest planted red grape variety in the Abruzzi and the Marche region in central Italy. It is also planted in several other regions in Italy mainly in the central and southern providences. It is a hearty late ripening variety similar to Sangiovese with full tannins, lower acidity and a softer rounder mouth feel. Our Mendocino version is a bigger, more age worthy example than most Montepulciano d’Abuzzo’s.

Vineyards: All of the grapes were grown in the Fox Mountain Vineyards owned by Lowell Stone, which is located in the foothills of the Ukiah Valley. These were the first and the only Montepulciano vines planted in America. Many of these vines are now nine years old, which along with their siblings give us for the first time, enough wine of this variety to sell.

Winemaking: Hand-harvested at 24.8 brix on October 25, 2001 these grapes were crushed and de-stemmed into small open-top stainless steel fermentors. After 4 days of a prefermentation cold-soak, the wine was fermented for 2 weeks while the cap was being pumped over and punched down twice daily. After extended ageing for 24 months in 100% French oak (of which 30% was new Vosges forest burgundy barrels) the wine was egg white fined and bottled on April 9, 2004.

Winemaker Comments: The finished wine has a dark purple-garnet color with aromas and flavors of spicy dark fruits and blackberries. A complex bouquet of toasty oak, cedar and earth tones blend perfectly with the fruit forward aromas. Rich, full tannins and mouthwatering acidity produce a great food wine that is capable of ageing for a long period, which is unusual for this wonderful variety.

Food Pairing: *A perfect wine for wild game, roasted leg of lamb and stews infused with herbs and spices.*

Awards: *Gold Medal Winner at Mendocino Winegrowers Wine Competition.*

Specifications:

Blend:	90% Montepulciano, 10% Sangiovese
Cases Produced:	485
Alcohol:	13.5%
Total Acidity:	.82
pH:	3.33
Residual Sugar:	0.5% (dry)



GRAZIANO FAMILY OF WINES

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