

UNTI

DRY CREEK VALLEY

SANGIOVESE

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GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY
UNTI VINEYARDS HEALDSBURG CA

ALCOHOL 14.4% BY VOLUME

1999 SANGIOVESE

Vineyard: The grapes come from four acres of steep terraced hillside vineyards planted in 1992. Vines are pruned back to one bud per position on a unilateral cordon to mitigate vigor in young vine Sangiovese. Our clone of Sangiovese, the "grosso" clone, is also found in the hills of Montalcino, where its called "Brunello".

Vintage/Harvest: In 1998, I thought the wine turned out so well because Dad kept the crop levels so low. In 1999, I thought the vines had a little too much fruit on them to produce as rich of a wine. Shows how much I know: the '99 is our most concentrated Sangiovese yet. The late cool growing season allowed the Sangiovese to ripen without losing acidity. Another year of growth also helped -- the vines were a year older and Dad and his crew did an even better job of farming the fruit.

Vinification: I also had a year more experience in the cellar. I handled the fruit more gently than in previous years. We racked the '99 Sangiovese only once (as opposed to three times with our other varietals) and we did it with nitrogen to minimize oxidation. We didn't fine or filter the wine, in part because I didn't think it needed it, and partly because it would have meant extra handling. Because Sangiovese tends to soak up oak character quickly, we aged it primarily in old (6 year) French oak and large French puncheons for 11 months. Unlike most California Sangiovese, this wine is 100% varietal.

Style: Our Sangiovese is dark and full-bodied with a deep fruity mid-palate to balance out the nervy acidity and tannins. After lots of comparative tasting, I would say our wine is similar to a Rosso di Montalcino. Our wine has the depth and structure to age five to seven years, but, as usual, we recommend drinking it within the next three.

Harvested: 10/01/99

Bottled: unfiltered, unfiltered 9/06/00

Cases produced: 784

Total acidity: 0.63gm/100ml

pH: 3.57

Alcohol.: 14.4%

Release Date:

1/19/01

\$20.00 bottle

Pre-release

purchase available

(see order form)