

2002 SANGIOVESE

UNTI

DRY CREEK VALLEY

SANGIOVESE

2 0 0 2

GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY
UNTI VINEYARDS HEALDSBURG CA

ALCOHOL 14.5% BY VOLUME

Vineyard: Our grapes come from four acres of steep terraced hillside vineyards planted in 1992. Vines are pruned to one bud per position on a unilateral cordon to mitigate vigor in young vine Sangiovese. It is Sangiovese Grosso, which is the clone used for Brunello di Montalcino—arguably the world's most powerful examples of this native Tuscan varietal.

Vintage/Harvest: A relatively normal growing season ended on a high note with made-to-order weather (warm days and very cool evenings) in September, 2002. This allowed us to pick at maximum flavor ripeness with near perfect acid balance. As usual, we thinned a fair amount of our Sangiovese to help concentrate the wine. The main portion of this wine comes from a tiny section of the hillside. Over the years these eight rows have consistently yielded our best Sangiovese.

Vinification: We use standard modern fermentation techniques—after destemming and light crushing, the Sangiovese must received a five-day cold soak. We inoculated with BM45 (Brunello) yeast and did aerative pump-overs during the ten-day fermentation in stainless steel tanks. To preserve Sangiovese's delicate fruity quality we try to handle it as little as possible and age it in not-too-impactful French Oak. We use only 25% new oak and about half of our Sangiovese barrels are 92 gallons (about one and one-half times the size of a regular barrel).

Style: If you could synthesize the color depth and power of a modern-style Brunello with the explosive fruitiness of a Dry Creek red, you would have our 2002 Sangiovese. It possesses acid balance, which is why Sangiovese based reds compliment a wide variety of foods. Don't let the seductive fruit fool you, this wine should age well for 3 to 4 years.

Harvested: 9/23/02
Total acidity: 0.56 gm/100ml
pH: 3.67
Aging: 11 months in French Oak,
25% new

Blend: 100% Sangiovese
Alcohol: 14.5%
Bottled: 9/7/03
Cases Produced: 630