



RUSSIAN HILL ESTATE WINERY

2006  
SYRAH

ESTATE VINEYARDS

**Vintage**  
2006

**Appellation**  
Russian River Valley

**Vineyard**  
*Estate Grown*  
Block 4, Clone 174  
Block 4, Clone 470  
Top Block

**Alcohol**  
14.5%

**pH**  
3.68

**TA**  
0.72 g/100ml

**Barrel Aging**  
American & French Barrels  
20% new oak

**Production**  
173 cases

### *Estate Vineyards (Syrah)*

Russian Hill Estate has four plantings of Syrah from which to make our Estate Vineyards Syrah. The fruit for this wine is sourced primarily from a new, as yet unnamed vineyard, we call Block 4. The site was originally a Eucalyptus grove which we cleared in the year 2000 and planted in 2002. Block 4 consists of two new clones from France, 174 and 470, planted on a westerly facing slope located across the street from our home site. A small amount of the Syrah is also sourced from Top Block.

The 2006 growing season was a year of extremes including the wettest March in recorded history as well as a July that had the longest heat spell ever recorded in California. The combination of a wet winter and spring followed by warm summer weather caused luxuriant growth of both leaves and fruit. Vineyards required considerable excess work to bring the vines into balance and to reduce crop load. The fruit for this wine was harvested from October 13 through 19, 2006 at a yield of 4.3 tons per acre and brix values ranging from 24.2 to 25.0.

### *Winemaker's Notes*

After sorting, the grapes were destemmed into tanks for immediate fermentation. A combination of tanks were used - small, open top tanks to enhance aromatics and produce a wine with a softer palate and larger closed tanks for better color and structure development. Thrice daily pneumatic punch downs and pump overs took place throughout fermentation. Once dry, the wine was gently pressed in a membrane press keeping free run and press fractions separate. Malolactic fermentation took place in oak barrels. The wine was bottled unfiltered on March 3, 2009.

### *The Wine*

This wine greets you with complex aromas of boysenberry, blackberry, licorice and spice. On the palate, the wine is smooth and silky with lush flavors of plum, cinnamon and white pepper. This is a very elegant wine that is drinking exceptionally well very early in its release.

*Russian Hill Estate is a family owned and operated winery located in the heart of the Russian River Valley. Our philosophy is to maintain the highest degree of excellence in viticultural and winemaking practices to allow wines to fully express the various vineyards that are their source. Using the utmost care from vineyard to bottle, Russian Hill is dedicated to the production of world-class Pinot noir and Syrah.*

[www.russianhillwinery.com](http://www.russianhillwinery.com)