



## Howell Mountain Vineyards 2003 Beatty Ranch Zinfandel

The Beatty Ranch is located at 1800 feet of elevation on the western slopes of Howell Mountain. Owner Mike Beatty has farmed this site and added to its plantings since the early 1970's supplying fruit to such producers as Dunn, Duckhorn, Ridge and Cakebread. The old block of zinfandel, planted over 90 years ago is head pruned on 2m x 2m spacing; dry farmed and consistently provides the winery with some of the best zinfandel available in Napa Valley.

At the winery, the grapes are handled gently, carefully sorted, destemmed but not crushed, cold soaked and then fermented in small temperature controlled tanks. The free run must is then gravity fed to the cellar where it is aged in 60 gallon French oak barrels for fifteen months. After a second racking, barrel selection determines the final lots that will be labeled as Beatty Ranch.

Wines from the Beatty Ranch have a reputation of being big, bold and intense, this vintage is no exception. It explodes on the palate with as much blackberry as can be experienced in a red wine. Its first impression offers a layer of fresh pureed fruit across the palate, only to have the flavors develop into a blend of berry, black pepper, smoke and cocoa. Definitely one of those tall, dark and handsome wines impeccably dressed. It requires you to take notice.

### TECHNICAL NOTES

Alcohol: 15.7%  
Composition: 100% Zinfandel  
Fruit Source: Beatty Ranch Vineyard  
Total Acidity:  
pH:  
Production: 235 cases