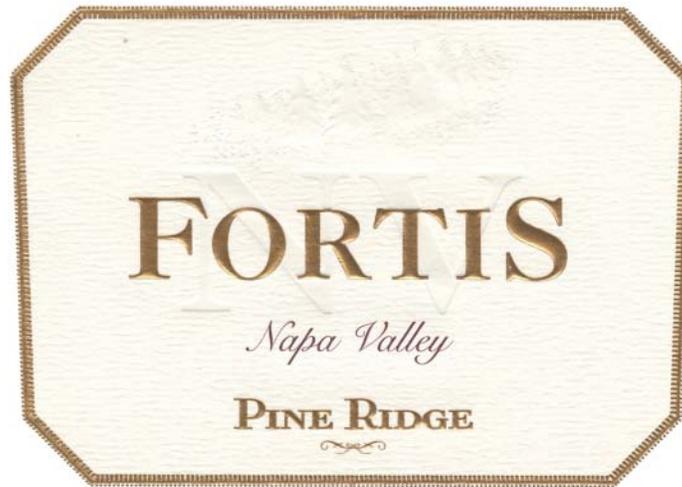


PINE RIDGE



2004 FORTIS CABERNET SAUVIGNON

ORIGIN: Spurred on by our unyielding commitment to quality and innovation, a vision emerged in 2003 to produce a wine that would embody the absolute best our estate vineyards have to offer. Winemaker Stacy Clark has turned this vision into reality and created Fortis, an ultra-reserve red wine, by carefully constructing a tête de cuvée from those vineyard blocks and sub-blocks that emerge as standouts from the vintage, regardless of varietal or appellation. No parameters have been set, and no boundaries established.

VINEYARD: When crafting a wine of this caliber, the process begins long before vinification. With over 225 acres of estate vineyards in five different Napa Valley appellations, our dedicated vineyard teams ensure that each block is given the utmost attention year-round. Through dense plantings, meticulous pruning and canopy management, and careful hand-harvesting at night, each 25-pound bin of fruit arrives at the winery in pristine condition. The appellation composition of Fortis will vary year-to-year according to each region's performance throughout the vintage. Fruit for the 2004 Fortis is a selection of 79% Rutherford, 9% Oakville, 9% Carneros, 3% Stags Leap District.

WINEMAKING: The Fortis blending process represents a series of intense, exhaustive evaluations by Winemaker Stacy Clark. After undergoing malolactic fermentation, individual lots are selected for their unparalleled flavor, structure and weight. Subsequent evaluations narrow the field, revealing the *crème de la crème* of the vintage, this year the final blend consists of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 9% Malbec and 7% Petit Verdot. Aged in 75% new French oak barrels for 14 months, this wine is a bold reflection of our talented winemaker's crowning achievement.

TASTING NOTES: The 2004 Fortis is awash in aromas of ripe red berries, cherry and blueberry fruit, with accents of tea, dark cocoa and tobacco hinting at further complexity and potential. Medium to full-bodied with superb concentration, sweet cherry and red berry fruit flavors and firm, silky tannins. The 2004 boasts exceptional length with notes of berry and tobacco leaf rounding out the finish.

This vintage produced 859 (750ml) cases, in addition to 1.5L, 3.0L, and 6.0L formats.