

2 0 0 3 B A R B E R A

In order to truly see something, to get at its essence, it has to be experienced in the appropriate context. Whether it's the Livermore Valley (maybe the most under-rated wine region in California) or the *Winter* release for the Collector's Circle (an artisanally-crafted, micro-lot of **Barbera** that belies the grape's workhorse history) one must take the thing in, in its own *thingness* to truly understand. • The Winter quarter marks the third release of our *Home Ranch Barbera*, this time called *Waves*. Comprising 1.5 acres on-site, this block has produced another stunning version of the Piemontese varietal, after Sangiovese, the most widely planted red grape in Italy. Barbera's history in California is one that demonstrates the tearing down of the whole in exchange for the constituent parts. • Improperly farmed (or farmed for the rumor and not the truth), Barbera will produce large yields of tasteless wine with tons of acid. In this state, it is not wine but an ingredient, that very acid giving a boost to other grapes grown in inferior climes. Farmed correctly, however, with an eye toward reducing yields and allowing enough hang-time for acid levels to balance with sugar, the result is a wine such as this. • In the nose there is a beautifully complex interplay of Damson plum, leather, and cocoa-dusted hazelnut notes supported by the wafting of toasty French oak. In the mouth, these blue fruits turn red...ripe cherry, cranberry...before being subsumed again by plush plum flavors. • The same quality that makes Barbera only a good blender in the Central Valley—it's acidity—gives it, here, its identity. Similar to *Tramonto* and *Blindside*, this wine is both circumscribed and set in bas-relief by the mouth-watering acidity that amps up and delineates the fruit, serves as a counterpoint to the generous barrel influence, and carries the flavors out to the greatest length of the finish. • Only 216 cases of this wine were made exclusively for the esteemed members of our Collector's Circle. • This wine takes its name from a photograph taken by Robert Farina.

The Wine

Blend	100% Barbera
Alcohol	15.5%
pH	3.47
TA75
Cases Produced	216

