

2 0 0 3 F A U V E

Coming on the heels of *Fleeting Fragrance*, our Summer Collector's Circle release—**Fauve**—is the perfect organoleptic counterweight. Where the 100% 2003 Home Ranch Cabernet was a wine of structure (yielding its cassis-themed fruit grudgingly, while puffing out its tannic chest!), *Fauve* is a foray into fruity abandon. • Crafted from 87% Syrah from the Fairbairn Ranch in Mendocino County and 13% Cabernet from the McGrail Vineyard in the Livermore Valley, this wine is not circumscribed by its complex fruit flavors and aromas, but rather enveloped by them. From the moment I pulled the cork from my sample bottle, the distinctive Syrah berry/roasted game nose exploded, filling my office in a matter of moments. • In the glass, the wine is extremely dark purple, thick to the point of opacity. Only the slightest brick red on the wine's edge hints visually at the wine's Cabernet component. With a little aeration, aromas of tobacco, mocha, and subtle violet perfume escape from the jaws of the profound red berry and spit-roasted game, serving to underscore the complexity of the layers of this wine. • In the mouth, *Fauve* becomes a lesson in texture: the silkiness of its mouthfeel, the fine-grained tannins that are perceived about mid-palate, the abundant acidity that carries the flavors of game, herb, and fruit through the long finish. All of these elements contribute to the effect of fullness that this wine shares with its previous incarnation, *Icarus*. • *Fauve* was aged in a combination of American and French oak (the American barrel contributes spice and more aggressive wood flavors, while the French barrel adds a sense of finish and elegance to the wine) for about 18 months. The wine was bottled without filtration and fining, and fewer than 200 cases were made exclusively for the members of our Collector's Circle.

• The original artwork is a pastel created by fellow club-member, Joanie Popeo. Her beautiful work can be viewed at the Winery and on-line at www.popeoart.com.

The Wine

Blend	87% Syrah
	13% Cabernet Sauvignon
Alcohol	14.9%
pH	3.68
Total Acid	0.61 g/100ml
Cases Produced:	192

