JOSEPH SWAN VINEYARDS

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2002 Zinfandel - Mancini Ranch -Russian River Valley

THE VINEYARD:
Planted in the early 1920's in the Mt. Olivet District, on the Santa Rosa plain of the Russian River Valley, these old vines are only moderately productive. The vines are head trained and spur pruned to what is known in Euorpe as 'goblet' and in Australia as 'bush vines'. Although the majority of the vineyard is zinfandel, it is interplanted in the old traditional Italian style with an unusual mix of varietals. We thin twice, once after fruit set and again at veraison in order to achieve fairly consistent ripening. Harvest is usually mid to late October and can range over two weeks in order to pick each vine at optimum maturity.

2002
Mancini Ranch
Russian River Valley

Zinfandel

Joseph Swan Vineyards

PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY JOSEPH SWAN VINEYARDS
FORESTVILLE CALIFORNIA, ALCOHOL 14.5% BY VOLUME

WINEMAKING:
The fruit was picked by hand into small plastic lugs in order to maintain fruit integrity. Approximately 20% of the fruit was dumped directly into small open top fermenters without de-stemming, with the balance de-stemmed with minimal crushing. After a cold soak, fermentation began with only the indigenous yeast. The cap was punched down by hand several times per day during the 26 day fermentation/maceration period. After pressing the wine was aged in mostly neutral 60 gallon French Oak barrels for 18 months prior to bottling in 2004.

THE WINE:

 At first the the nose was a little bit shy and reticent but it is now showing typical zinfandel bright berry fruit and the Mancini Ranch character. In the mouth there is plenty of sweet fruit with a a bit of wood spice, light soft tannins and good length, with hints of pepper and a slight floral note, bright acidity and only moderate tannin. We have tasted the wine over several days and it opens and develops considerably, which argues well for its ag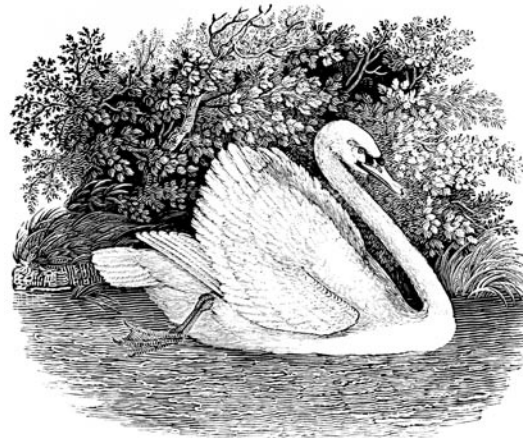ing potential. 597 cases bottled.