

Peju Province Winery Releases 2005 Napa Valley Zinfandel and 2005 Napa Valley Syrah

Peju Province Winery, located in Rutherford in the heart of the Napa Valley, today announced the release of its 2005 Napa Valley Zinfandel and 2005 Napa Valley Syrah. The new vintages will be available for sale from November 1 in Peju's wine tasting room and online at www.peju.com. The 2005 Napa Valley Zinfandel retails at \$28.00 per bottle and the 2005 Napa Valley Syrah at \$32.00 per bottle.

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Peju's Zinfandel and Syrah wines were introduced shortly after Tony and Herta Peju acquired the Persephone Vineyard (Pope Valley) in 1996 to expand the winery's production beyond the Bordeaux varietals produced from its 30-acre Rutherford Estate. Peju's Persephone Zinfandel is planted on a hillside block, giving way to more intense flavors and concentration. The Syrah is a mix of Clone 6, 2 and 1, which together form intense wines with deep violet, nearly black color, chewy texture and richness with aromas that lend more spice than fruit.

In addition to Zinfandel and Syrah, Persephone's 120 acres are planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. The Persephone Vineyard's well-drained silt loam, warmer summers and cooler winters produce fruit with unique, layered characteristics - ideal for producing wines that stand on their own or for blending with the flavors and texture from the Rutherford Estate.

'The 2005 growing season was one of the coolest and longest in recent memory,' Peju Winemaker Sara Fowler explained. 'The balanced climate of hot afternoons and cool evenings allowed our fruit to mature slowly and evenly for concentrated flavor character.'

The 2005 Zinfandel fruit was harvested in August 2005. Ripe tannins and exceptional hues of rich garnet and dark magenta developed during fermentation before the Zinfandel spent 10 months aging in American Oak. It was bottled unfiltered. The wine gives off aromas of raspberry, cherry and clove and bursts of bright, rich chocolate and blackberry jam on the palate. The bold tannins give this wine a hint of spice on the long, lingering finish.

The 2005 vintage gave the Syrah grapes extraordinary color and spiced flavor with an abundance of layered character. The fruit was harvested in stages of development during September and October 2005 and was aged 16 months in American Oak to impart depth and sweet oak characteristics in the wine. The dark garnet red hues from the Syrah give way to aromas of huckleberry, blackberry cobbler and black pepper while the palate enjoys flavors of raspberry, cocoa and roasted coffee.

Peju's 2004 Zinfandel vintage received a '91' score from Connoisseurs' Guide and 'Gold' in the 2007 Florida International Wine Competition. Peju's 2003 Syrah was awarded 'Silver' in the 2007 Dallas Morning News Wine Competition and the 2002 vintage received a '90' from Wine Spectator in 2006.

Both the 2005 Zinfandel (3,347 cases produced) and 2005 Syrah (1,934 cases produced) are delicious to drink now and will age beautifully in the bottle for another six to eight years.

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About Peju Province Winery

Peju Province, founded in 1982 by Tony and Herta Peju, is a family-owned boutique winery located in the Rutherford Appellation in the heart of the Napa Valley. Peju's organically farmed Rutherford Estate Vineyard is home to 30 acres planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc and is ideally situated between Highway 29 and the west bank of the Napa River. Peju also produces wines from its sustainably farmed Persephone Vineyard (Pope Valley) and planting is underway at the Wappo Vineyard (Dutch Henry Canyon). Visitors are welcomed into a magnificent 50-foot tasting room tower to sample Peju's award-winning wines, including its flagship HB Reserve, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, Syrah, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Provence, a proprietary blend of red and white varietals. Peju visitors can also enjoy pristine gardens, art exhibits and a full-working kitchen that hosts a variety of events and classes, all part of what earned Peju Wine & Spirits Magazine's Top Artisan Winery of the Year.

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You can also visit www.asset-protection-international.com for more information.