

# PLATINUM SERIES

Select, Ultra Premium, Collectable Wines from California's Best Winemakers

For the brother-sister tandem of Miles and Ryan MacDonnell, the entry of Round Pond Estate into the ranks of upper-echelon Napa Valley wine producers is simply the prolongation of their generation into the world of wine growing and wine making.

Starting as early as 1978, the siblings' father Robert, began acquiring property in and around the central town of Rutherford in the very heart of the Napa Valley. By bits and pieces, MacDonnell obtained ownership of more than 360 plantable acres, a fact that made him one of the more important growers in the entire valley. For two decades, MacDonnell and his family sold their fruit to nearby wineries including Robert Mondavi, Beaulieu Vineyard and Sterling Vineyards to name a few.

"Sometime around 1992," recounted Miles MacDonnell, 35, "we began making a little wine for us, but it was just a barrel or two. Our vineyard manager made the wine and we drank it among ourselves. At the time we were selling all of our grapes to outside wineries."

The number of homemade cases grew steadily until it reached around 200, but MacDonnell recalled that the wine was mostly "made for fun."

That all changed in 2001, when Miles returned to the family estate and saw an opportunity for developing quality standards for individual blocks of vineyards that his family owned. "We were basically custom growing for our clients and each wanted some individual characteristics for their vines that we were happy to provide. I saw that each one would take the grapes and make them into their own wines, and each one was different. We started making our own wines from each block we owned and we were able to compare them to the others from the same block. It was an incredible opportunity for us to learn from our customers and also provided the impetus for the development of Round Pond Estate into a commercial winery."

For the record, Round Pond is named after a pond close to Lake Frederick in West Point, New York. Robert MacDonnell's father taught at West Point and Robert recalled his favorite childhood watering spot as the perfect name for the family's new winery venture.

The first release of around 950 cases of Round Pond Estate came in 2002, and was immediately received with great validation from both the wine industry press and consumers alike. The production has grown slowly and will be around 4,500 cases this year.

"I do not see us ever going over the 10-12,000-case level," MacDonnell added. "We really enjoy the fact that we have total control of our wines at this point. If we get too big, we lose part of the ability to truly control our quality. Making top notch wines is our aim, and to us, smaller is better. Since we are still a long way off of the 10,000 level, it will be a long time in the future before we grow that much."

Some 2-1/2 years ago, Round Pond added a tasting facility and winery complex to their incredible gardens scenario that made Round Pond one of Napa Valley's premier destinations. The fact that it is located across the road from the iconic Caymus Vineyards on the Rutherford Crossroad makes the winery development easy to locate. The additional attraction of olive groves that produce high quality olive oils is added dressing to the already fabulous setting.

Miles MacDonnell admits that he does all the "fun stuff" for the winery that includes all vineyard management (and also for the rest of the winery's customers) and control of the production side of the Round Pond Estate business. His sister Ryan, a former investment banker in New York who is also a lawyer, is left with the job of selling and marketing the wines.

"We are still a small, family business," MacDonnell concluded. "Our Mother Jannine rules over the tasting facility and the other aesthetic aspects of the business with an iron hand and our Dad Robert is still in on any of the major decisions that are made affecting the winery. He enjoys showing up whenever I manage to get myself in trouble."

Such a buoyant attitude displayed by the entire MacDonnell Family is a main reason for Round Pond Estate's ongoing success. It is the result of carefully planned and executed strategies that have reached fruition in a relatively short span of years. It makes this month's *Platinum Series* selection a pleasure to present to you.



Round Pond  
ESTATE  
2005  
RUTHERFORD · NAPA VALLEY  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**TASTING NOTES**




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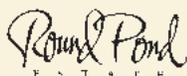
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Dear *Platinum Series* Members,

Our parents, Bob and Jan MacDonnell, purchased their first parcel of Napa Valley land in 1980 and today our family owns over 400 acres, all in the Rutherford AVA. By 1986, mom and dad were producing primarily Cabernet Sauvignon grapes that they sold to some of the valley's most famous wineries including Beaulieu, Grgich Hills, Freemark Abbey, Franciscan, and others. From these early wines made in nearby wineries, our family learned that winemaking begins in the vineyard and that a commitment to produce top quality wines must include an integrated viticultural and winemaking program.

In 2002, our family decided to produce our first wine from several of our favorite Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard blocks. The success of this first vintage, and our commitment to producing world-class wines, resulted in the construction of our new, state-of-the-art winery, opened in July 2007.

Research at the University of California – Davis, confirmed through decades of first-hand experience farming our Rutherford property, has shown us that the soils and climate of Rutherford are perhaps the best possible for Cabernet Sauvignon. This "First-Growth" terroir has produced some of California's most renowned wines. Our commitment to top quality wines and respectful stewardship of our land are the guiding principals of Round Pond.

We hope you enjoy our family's best efforts and look forward to seeing you at Round Pond sometime soon.

Ryan MacDonnell

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**TASTING NOTES**

*1,294 Cases Produced*

The Round Pond Estate 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon was crafted from reserve vineyard blocks of the winery's finest estate fruit. The result is a wine that fuses power and richness for which the Napa Valley's famed Rutherford region is known. With a commitment to tradition and time-honored sustainable techniques, Round Pond delivers a modern classic with their inaugural Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. Awarded 91 Points by *Wine Enthusiast* magazine as well as being named one of the Top 100 Wines of 2008 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, this Cabernet is rich, inviting and sophisticated, with explosive fruit flavors that express the unique Rutherford terroir. The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon also received a Double Gold Medal at the *American Fine Wine Competition* and Round Pond Winery was recently named One of the 20 to Watch: Exciting New Cabernet Labels in *Wine Spectator* magazine. From its fragrant aromatics of sweet fruit and dusty sage to its beautiful dark berry flavors and signature notes of terroir-inspired earthiness, this appealing wine combines good structure, a sophisticated acid backbone and firm tannins, ending with a plush finish. 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot. Enjoy now until 2015.



**REORDERS**

The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon is Round Pond's inaugural Estate wine, reflecting both the charm and sophistication of an extraordinary California appellation – Napa Valley's renowned Rutherford region. With two generations of winegrowing experience and artisan attention to detail, Round Pond delivers an elegant, handcrafted Cabernet that truly reflects its origin.

The Round Pond Estate 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon retails winery-direct for \$65.00 per bottle. As a *Platinum Series* member your very special pricing is as follows:

- 2-Bottle Members . . . . . \$54.00 /bottle\*
- 4-Bottle Members &
- Multi-Series Members . . . . \$49.00 /bottle\*
- \*2 bottle min. order [Plus shipping]

Call: 1-800-266-8888  
 Fax: 1-800-266-8889  
 E-mail: [orders@goldmedalwine.com](mailto:orders@goldmedalwine.com)

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