



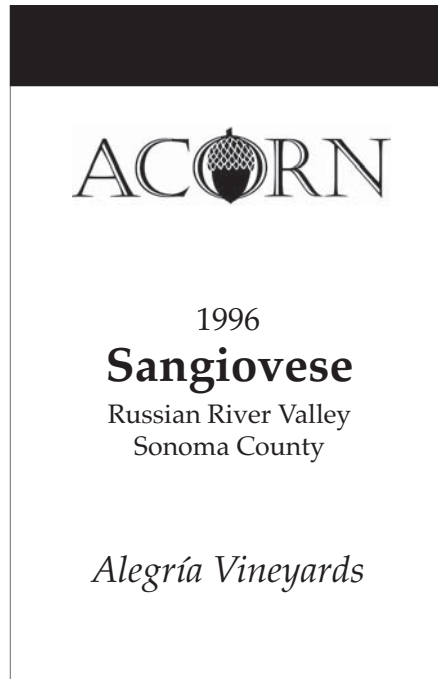
**1996 Sangiovese**  
*Alegría Vineyards*  
*Russian River Valley*

Sangiovese is a grape variety that has been cultivated in Italy for centuries. It is the principal red wine grape of Tuscany and the predominant grape in Italian wines such as Chianti Classico and Brunello di Montalcino. The grape's name means "Blood of Jupiter", from the Latin *Sanguis Iovis*.

Most of the Sangiovese in California was planted in the 1990's. Almost all of the vines planted in California before Prohibition were pulled out, and it took 60 years for the grape to be discovered.

At Alegría Vineyards, we are lucky to have several Sangiovese vines that are 49 years old. A. Rafanelli added them to our old Zinfandel vineyard in 1950. Those vines demonstrated to us that the hillside near the old vineyard would be a prime location for the variety.

In 1992 we planted Sangiovese on "Nob Hill", a steep west-facing slope at Alegría Vineyards rising 80 feet above our winery. We used cuttings from our old vineyard, plus six other distinct clonal selections of Sangiovese, to establish the new vineyard. We added two other Tuscan grape varieties, Canaiolo Nero and Mammolo Toscano, which are traditionally blended with Sangiovese in Tuscany. All of these different selections contribute to the wine's complexity.



*Betsy and Bill Nachbaur*

**Winemaker Notes:**

At Acorn Winery our focus is to make wines that fully express the fruit characteristics of the grape varieties and the unique influences of the vineyard's soil and microclimate. Our 1996 Sangiovese exhibits the distinctive Russian River Valley *terroir* mingled with the luscious fruit of the Sangiovese grape.

**Tasting Notes:** Ruby red in color, aromas of rose petal and violets, with soft tannins that frame flavors of cherry, vanilla, spice, and chocolate. This well-balanced, medium-bodied wine will enhance any meal.

**Composition:** A vineyard blend of 98% Sangiovese with 1% Canaiolo Nero and 1% Mammolo Toscano.

<b>Vintage:</b>	1996	<b>Bottled:</b>	July 13, 1997
<b>Appellation:</b>	Russian River Valley		Unfiltered/Unfined
<b>Vineyard:</b>		<b>Case Production:</b>	400
<b>Designation:</b>	Alegría Vineyards	<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.1%
<b>Harvest Date:</b>	October 8, 1996	<b>pH:</b>	3.47
<b>Brix:</b>	24.6° Brix	<b>T.A.:</b>	0.60 g/100 ml
<b>Barrel Aging:</b>	9 months	<b>Release Date:</b>	June 1999
<b>Type of Oak:</b>	88% French barrels 12% American barrels		