

July 2006

Patterson's **BEVERAGE** Journal

Monte Rosso Vineyard's "Long Afternoon Vines"



Gnarly, hundred-year old zinfandel and cabernet sauvignon vines and the unique rich-red rocky soil of Louis M. Martini's Monte Rosso Vineyard in Sonoma are inspirations for artist Ann Rea's newest series of vineyard paintings. "The acres of twisted vines, each on sculpted by more than a century of harvests, and the beautiful color of this distinctive vineyard's red clay soil are striking," said Rea, who paints in the "plein-air" style with her canvases and easel in the vineyards. Monte Rosso is the seventh California vineyard Rea has painted.

Before choosing the locations for her paintings at Monte Rosso's Sonoma location, Rea walked the vineyards with the people who tend the soil and vines. "Long Afternoon Vines" was the last piece I painted in a series of 17 paintings," Rea said.

The painting features the twisted vines of the older vineyards, and was chosen for an exclusive edition of giclee prints. Rea and winemaker Mike Martini signed 250 giclee prints while sipping some of Mike Martini's library wines and sharing their experiences of the unique location.

"Monte Rosso is very special to our family." Said Martini, whose family purchased Monte Rosso in 1938. "It's a spiritual place, but its beauty is created by the conditions that make the vineyards exceptional. Its unique combination of soils, microclimates, elevations and exposures make it one of the most highly regarded grape-growing locations in the state, where we harvest several blocks of old vine cabernet sauvignon and zinfandels date back to 1890."

On clear days, San Francisco Bay is visible from Monte Rosso's 1240 foot elevation.

July 2006

“In early spring, I explored the fresh vivid color of budding wild flowers between the vines and in Septembers I discovered the deep hues of autumn grape leaves,” Rea said, who spent the months of May and September painting at Monte Rosso.

For more information about Rea’ Monte Rosso Vineyard gilcee prints, call her studio at 415-387-2224, or visit her Web site www.annrea.com. Also visit the Louis M. Martini Tasting Room in St. Helena, 707-968-3361 to view or purchase the originals from this series.