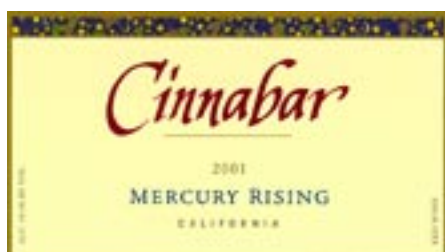


## Tasting Notes

This wine casts aromas of dark fruit, baking spice and butterscotch. It has concentrated blackberry flavors with hints of toasted coconut, a huge mid-mouth and considerable complexity. The body is medium-to-full while the long finish of berries, toasted oak and fine-grained tannins pair well with grilled rib eye steak, dry-rubbed blackened snapper or ratatouille Provencale over pasta.

—Winemaker George Troquato



## Technical Data

### APPELLATION:

California

### VARIETAL CONTENT:

cabernet sauvignon, merlot  
cabernet franc and petite verdot

### HARVEST DATES:

August 31 – October 18, 2001

### FERMENTATION:

Hand-sorted fruit, destemmed,  
whole-berry fermentation in five-ton  
open-top stainless steel tanks

### AGING:

18 months in French and American  
oak barrels (30% new)

### FINISHED ALCOHOL:

14.1%

### TOTAL ACID/pH:

0.62 per 100ml/3.63

### RELEASE DATE:

September 1, 2003

# 2001 Mercury Rising

# Cinnabar

VINEYARDS & WINERY

Mercury Rising is the proprietary name of Cinnabar's rich Bordeaux-style red wine. Each year Winemaker George Troquato selects grapes from its Santa Cruz Mountains estate as well as other distinguished California regions. Vineyards are chosen for their exceptional climate, soil and ability to express true varietal character.

In 2001, sources in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Paso Robles and Lodi contributed cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc and petite verdot. Lots were fermented separately and then blended, creating a wine of great depth and complexity.

## The Vineyards

Cinnabar's "island vineyards" overlook Silicon Valley from the eastern rim of the Santa Cruz Mountains at 1,650 feet of elevation. Hilltop exposures provide extensive sunlight while cool breezes rolling off San Francisco Bay each afternoon modify a temperate climate that is ideal for grape growing.

The weathered mountain soils are mostly red clay-loam with layers of shale evident at greater depths. The 19-year-old cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and petit verdot vines produce small concentrated berries that contribute elegance, great structure and wonderful aromas to the blend.

Paso Robles' Lions Peak Vineyards are located above the town of San Miguel on the east side of the Salinas River. The 30-year-old cabernet sauvignon vines are dry-farmed on south facing slopes at 1,200 feet of elevations in gravelly limestone and sandy-clay-loam soils. Long growing seasons and meticulous cultural practices help create wines with classic cabernet aromas and flavors.

Lewis Vineyard is situated in the rolling hills above the town of Clements, east of Lodi and the San Joaquin River delta. The 30-year-old merlot vines grow on their own roots in red rocky clay soils that were deposited by the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers over time. Grapes are slowly ripened by the combined effects of warm days, cool delta breezes and occasional morning fog. This distinct setting produces highly extracted wines with great structure and dark fruit flavors.



Owner Tom Mudd, GM Suzanne Frontz, Vnyrd. & Estate Mgr. Ron Mosley, Winemaker George Troquato

## Vintage

The winter preceding vintage 2001 was average in rainfall and temperature. Buds broke on time in mid-March as the growing season began with cold, clear weather. A mild spring led to normal bloom, berry set and veraison. Cooler temperatures in July, August and September slowed grape development and extended the growing season for about two weeks. Yields were of average size, but the fruit was especially clean with crisp flavors and great balance.

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