

ALPHA XINOMAVRO 2003 OPAP

Vintage:	2003
Production:	4,789 bottles
Producer:	Alpha Estate, Amyndeon, Macedonia
Wine maker:	Angelos Iatridis
Varietal composition:	100% Xinomavro
Alcohol content:	13.5% vol
Vineyard:	Mild slopes with north-western exposure at an altitude of 620-710 m in the Amyndeon lakelands. The soil is sandy/sandy clay with excellent drainage. Xinomavro planted in 4.5 ha of the 33 ha under vine. The vineyard has linear planting and a regulated deficit irrigation system.
Climate:	The climate is semi-continental with important precipitations, including snowfall in winter. Hot, dry summers with cool nights. North-western winds all through the year. Absence of spring frost.
Yield:	3,500-4,000 kg / ha. Green harvest 10-20%
Harvesting:	Harvest date (Brix): 5/10 (22.8). Manual harvesting in small picking boxes and immediate storage of grapes till their temperature falls to 8C. Use of selection table.
Vinification:	Destemming, no crushing, enzymatic pre-fermentation skin contact under controlled conditions (below 10C); alcoholic fermentation in stainless steel at 22-28C over 8-13 days (selected strain of yeast); selective post fermentation maceration at 16C.
Cask composition and ageing:	8 months in new American Missouri oak extra fine grain, medium toast; malolactic fermentation; maintenance of wine "sur lie" for 4 months with regular stirring; blending during ageing; bottled 7/7/04; no treatment or filtration before bottling; 6 months in bottle before release on 20/1/05.
Tasting note:	A modern vinification of a traditional grape. Beautiful bright red with purple hints. The nose exhibits delicious aromas of red berries with hints of liquorice and chocolate. Aromas of strawberry carry through the finish; good structure and well-integrated chewy tannins. Decanting recommended. Can be cellared for at least 10 years.
Food matching:	Accompanies roasts, meats with rich sauces and cheeses.
Chemical analysis:	Wine pH 3.31 Total acidity 7.3g/l (as tartaric acid) Residual sugars 1.7g/l
Recent distinctions:	Decanter World Wine Awards 2005: Gold and Regional Trophy Decanter April 2005: Steven Spurrier's "Best Old World Red"

