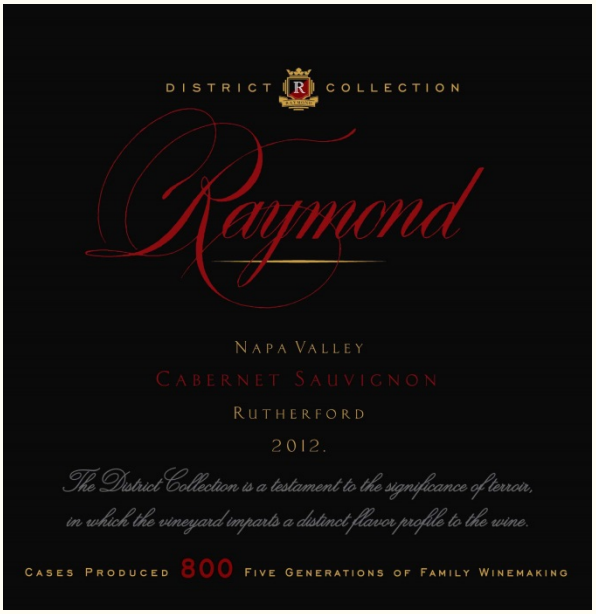
NAPA VALLEY

Raymond

District Collection
2012 Rutherford Merlot



TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Rutherford

Varietal: 100% Merlot

Alcohol: 13.5% by vol.

pH: 3.46

TA: 6.44 g/L

Fermentation: 18-20 months in French oak, 45% new

Production: 250 Cases

In the Vineyard

The grapes for the Rutherford Merlot were sourced from our Rutherford estate vineyard, known for gravelly alluvial fan soils with good drainage, creating more intense flavors. Vineyards are monitored throughout the growing season to balance crop size and quality. By practicing leaf removal in early summer, cluster thinning at time of veraison, and harvesting one side of the vine at a time, we achieve concentrated flavors with optimum ripeness.

About the Vintage

"Classic" and "perfect" are just two accolades being bestowed upon the 2012 Napa Valley growing season and harvest. Textbook conditions saw near-ideal spring bud break, steady flowering, even fruit set, and a lengthy stretch of warm days and cool nights during the long summer months. Late and light rains held off until Napa Valley's treasured wine grapes found optimal ripeness, bringing exceptional quality to the crush pad and into the cellar.

Conversations With The Winemaker

The grapes for this Merlot were all harvested from our Estate Vineyard in the heart of Rutherford. The wine spent 18-20 months in French oak with 45% in new oak barrels.

Wine Profile

Cabernet-like in structure, the 2012 Rutherford Merlot displays aromas of black cherry and espresso bean aromatically accented with hints of mulled spices. Earthy and rusty on the palate, the wine displays a medium to full body with luscious raspberry and blackberry flavors with smooth tannins that are lively in the mouth before culminating in a long, delicious finish.