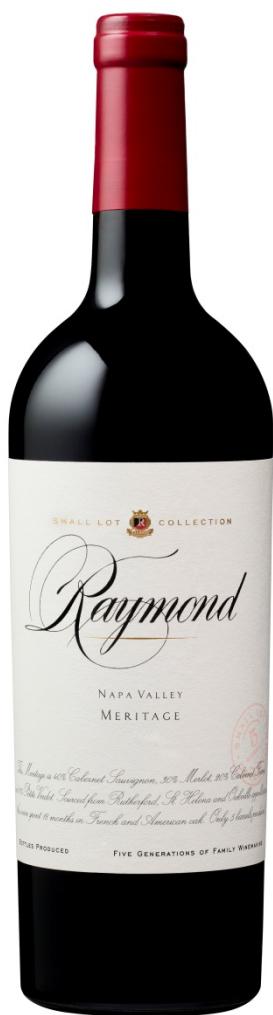




2012 SMALL LOT NAPA VALLEY MERITAGE



IN THE VINEYARD

"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, foggy 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 Meritage are grown in the famed Napa Valley appellation, and the blend is made up of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc providing an array of varietal characteristics to work with when crafting the wine. Cabernet Sauvignon provides richness to the wine, while Merlot contributes to the silky mouth feel. The Cabernet Franc provides stunning aromatics while the Malbec and Petit Verdot lends backbone to the overall structure of the wine resulting in a blend that will age nicely over the next 8-10 years. This Meritage is 100% barrel-aged for 18 months in French oak, 45% new.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Napa Valley

Varietal: 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot, 10% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Franc

Alcohol: 14.5% by vol.

pH: 3.67

TA: 5.7 g/L

Ageing: 18 months in French, 45% new

Case Production: 224 cases

WINE PROFILE

The 2012 vintage of our Small Lot Napa Valley Meritage opens with pleasing aromas of mocha, bright red fruits, and a touch of fresh earth. Upon the palate, flavors of cassis, allspice, dark chocolate and toasty accents burst forth. A full, round mouthfeel with juicy tannins and nice balance, this pairs beautifully with traditional pasta dishes with marinara sauce.