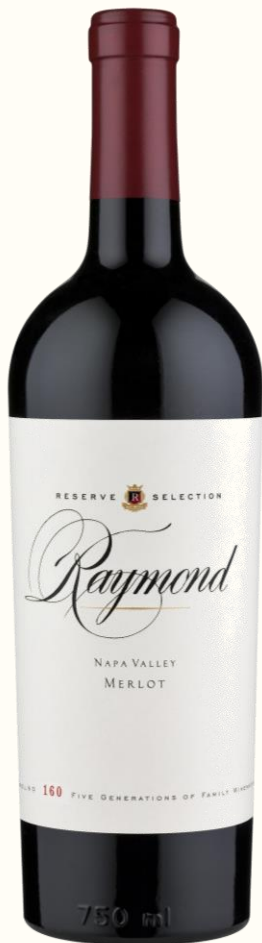




2012 RESERVE SELECTION NAPA VALLEY MERLOT



TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: NAPA VALLEY

VARIETAL: 85% MERLOT, 15%

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

ALCOHOL: 14.5% BY VOL.

PH: 3.72

TA: 5.54G/L

AGEING: 18 MONTHS, 20% NEW

FRENCH OAK

IN THE VINEYARD

The grapes for the Napa Valley Merlot were sourced from our vineyards in Rutherford as well as select growers in St. Helena and across Napa. Our estate vineyards are located on gravelly alluvial fan soils with good drainage, necessary for growing excellent quality Merlot. The vineyards are diligently monitored throughout the growing season to balance the crop size and quality. Shoot thinning and leaf removal early in the growing season followed by cluster thinning at veraison, helps to achieve evenly ripened grapes with concentrated flavors.

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 WINEMAKERS

Our Reserve Selection Napa Valley Merlot was hand sorted and spent an average of 15 days on the skins before being aged for 18 months in 20% new French oak, with the remainder in once and twice-used French oak. Tightly grained barrels yield their oak characteristics in a more deliberate fashion for a consistent, well-rounded aging process. A small amount of Cabernet Sauvignon was blended to provide structure and complexity.

WINE PROFILE

A nice swirl of the glass reveals aromas of sandalwood, currant and plum that pleasantly lead to enticing flavors of blueberry, blackberry and violet. Juicy and robust, our 2012 Reserve Selection Merlot displays nice structure, firm tannins and a lengthy finish worthy of the designation of Reserve Selection.