



## 2013 Reserve Selection Napa Valley Merlot



### TECHNICAL NOTES

**Appellation:** Napa Valley

**Varietal:** 90% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petite Sirah

**Alcohol:** 14.5%

**pH:** 3.54

**TA:** 6.3 g/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 Oak Knoll 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

The 2013 vintage in Napa Valley was one of the earliest harvested vintages in years. A warm spring led to early bud break and created the perfect environment for flowering and fruit set. With warm days and cool nights, our team was able to maintain ideal acid levels with optimum, bright fruit flavors.

### Conversations with the Winemakers

Our Reserve Selection Napa Valley Merlot was hand sorted and spent an average of 27 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.

### Wine Profile

Deep ruby in the glass, our 2013 Reserve Selection Merlot offers aromas of black currant, plum and hints of spicy sandalwood. Upon the palate, robust flavors of blackberry and blueberry are balanced a touch of violet. With nice structure, firm tannins and a long finish, this wine is immediately enjoyable and pairs well with slow roasted pork chops or a rich cheese plate.