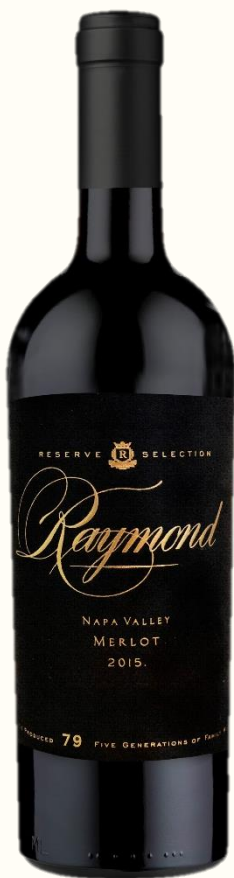




2015 Reserve Selection Napa Valley Merlot



TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Napa Valley

Varietal: 95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol: 15%

pH: 3.44

TA: 7.0 g/L

Ageing: 20 months, 24% new French oak

In the Vineyard

The grapes for our Reserve Selection Napa Valley Merlot were sourced from our vineyards in Rutherford as well as select growers in Oak Knoll and Atlas Peak. Our estate vineyards are located on gravelly alluvial fan soils with good drainage, necessary for growing excellent quality Merlot. The grapes are grown organically and Biodynamically® and lend structure and age ability to the wine. The grapes from Atlas Peak provide bright acidity while Oak Knoll fruit adds plushness and texture to the mid palate.

About the Vintage

The unseasonably warm temperatures in the early growing season in the Napa Valley in 2015 resulted in early bud break and bloom. Colder temperatures later in the season caused uneven fruit set and resulted in a smaller crop than previous average yields. Winemakers and vineyard crews worked diligently to pick and sort the best berries. Harvest began as early as July 22, one of the earliest harvests recorded, and concluded by mid-October. While drought was still a concern for most of California, Napa Valley received 75% of normal rainfall for the year.

Conversations with the Winemakers

Harvested between September 23 and October 17, 2015, the grapes were hand sorted and spent an average of 36 days on the skins before being aged for 20 months in 24% new French oak including Leroi, Saury, Radoux and Orion barrels, 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 2015 Reserve Selection Merlot offers aromas of black cherry, plum and red licorice. This is a structured wine with flavors of lingonberry, candied violets and blueberries that develop over time. This is a wine of great density, good acidity and firm tannins.