



2006 Reserve Merlot

Philosophy

Merlot is a grape known for its soft, lush appealing fruit. Bordeaux is heavily planted with this variety for good reason. It is usually blended with Cabernet Sauvignon to help soften the tannins and astringency of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape. We began to bottle it as a stand-alone variety because it is so good by itself with a little field blended Cabernet.



Vineyard Source

The estate Merlot Vineyard is three clones of Merlot grafted onto 37 year old Cabernet Sauvignon roots. It is located on a South-facing slope on our ridge with the vine rows running East to West. This vineyard block was part of our original cabernet planting in 1974. Some of the grafts did not take so we have a small amount of field blended Cabernet in our Merlot. The fruit from this block has always been spectacular, whether it is Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot.

2006 Vintage

The spring was very wet and cool with late bud break. The moderate temperatures were broken with a short two-week heat wave in the summer. In August the temperatures moderated, and a cool, long fall resulted in a slow long drawn out harvest. This allowed good ripening of the fruit with rich flavor and resulted in a lovely wine with great varietal character.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

This Merlot is a lovely, soft, fruity wine with dramatic blackberry and plum flavors, cherries in the nose, - all accented with barrel flavors. This is a versatile medium bodied wine with many nuances to go with a variety of moderately seasoned foods. Serve it often with summer barbecues and anywhere a soft lush red is needed. It goes well with many chicken, fish and turkey dishes.

John MacCready, Owner & Winemaker

Harvest Date	Sept 12
Sugar at Harvest	24.5° Brix
Time in Oak	14 months
Bottling Date	Dec. 2007
Cases produced	231
Alcohol	14.0%