



2012 Napa Valley Merlot



Vineyard Notes:

This wine is a blend from four very special Merlot vineyards all located in the southern end of the Napa Valley, along with a kiss of our estate Petit Verdot. Because of the proximity to the San Pablo Bay, the southern portion of the Napa Valley tends to be cooler, which is favorable to Merlot. The temperate summer weather in 2012 offered lengthy hang-time for the grapes, which resulted in soft, balanced wine with exceptional depth of flavor.

Tasting Notes:

The nose pops with violets, wild berries, and lightly toasted nuts. This leads to a palate of rich, alluring red fruit and velvety tannins. The wine is fruit forward with intense and lush raspberry, cherry and plum flavors. On the finish the fruit is framed by oak flavors of vanilla, roasted nuts and dark chocolate. The wine is wonderfully balanced with fruit, acidity, and oak all contributing to a classy and delicious wine. Pair with thick pork chops or delicate mushroom-based dishes.

Blend:

98% Merlot: Darms Lane Vineyard, Yountville
❖ 44% Ranch 9 Monticello Road, Coombsville
❖ 31% Ozegna Vineyard, Oak Knoll District
❖ 17% Ranch 6 Monticello Road, Coombsville
❖ 6% Dollar Ranch, Napa Valley
2% Petit Verdot: Arger vineyard, Atlas Peak

Specs:

Harvest date: October 8–23, 2012
Bottling date: August 1, 2014
Cases produced: 5,701
Bottle size: 750 mL
Titratable Acidity: 5.7 g/L
pH: 3.73
Alcohol: 14.5%
Winemaker: Bradley Smith