

FRANCISCAN  
ESTATE  
NAPA VALLEY



2013  
Napa Valley

WINEMAKER'S RESERVE MALBEC

WINEMAKER: Janet Myers

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

AVERAGE BRIX AT HARVEST: 24°–26°

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

77% Malbec, 16% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon

FERMENTATION: Pre-fermentation cold soak of four days to enhance color and body. Fermentation and maceration averaging 18 days.

AGING: 20 months in small French oak barrels. 48% new oak

COOPERS: Boutes, Vicard, and Damy

PH: 3.77 | TA: 6.1 g/L | ALCOHOL: 14%

CASES PRODUCED 536

SENSORY EVALUATION:

*Appearance:* Rich scarlet

*Aromas:* Beautiful floral notes waft out of the glass followed by cherry, raspberry, sweet spice, and a hint of graphite.

*Flavors:* Soft and generous, this Malbec has silky tannins with a round and full mouthfeel. The finish is loaded with dark cherries and a hint of freshly ground coffee. The bright acidity gives the palate a nice, clean lift leading you back for another sip.

**WINEMAKER'S NOTES:** At Franciscan Estate, 200 individual lots of red wine are made during the vintage, each representing a unique combination of vineyard blocks and barrel type. This is our winemaking philosophy—crafting small lots to capture the best expression of the grapes each year. This year, we wanted to showcase Malbec, a varietal that is well known in Argentina, but typically only used in blends in the U.S. The bright, opulent fruit, soft, restrained tannins, generously plump mouthfeel, and inky dark color of Malbec are key to making a number of our Franciscan Estate blends shine. Malbec does phenomenally well on our Oakville Estate vineyard and we are pleased to be able to show you why we love it so much in this unique bottling of Winemaker's Reserve. —Janet Myers, Winemaker

**GROWING SEASON:** The 2013 vintage gave us near perfect growing conditions, which led to an early harvest with the first Malbec arriving from our Oakville Estate vineyard on September 12. This was the younger block, which even in its youth is showing beautiful richness and vibrancy of flavor. The older, more established block arrived on September 23, displaying the beautiful floral and cherry aromas that contribute so much complexity to this wine. Spring conditions were warm and dry, which led to an early bud break and very even set. Aside from one hot spell at the end of June, temperatures remained moderate throughout the spring and summer. With only eight inches of rain from January through June, the vines had less green growth and an earlier turn to fruit development. As harvest progressed, we became more and more aware that the color and intensity of Bordeaux reds in the 2013 vintage would lead to a truly phenomenal vintage.

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