

FRANCISCAN
ESTATE
NAPA VALLEY



2013
Napa Valley

RESERVE MERLOT



SENSORY EVALUATION:

Appearance: Rich scarlet

Aromas: Vibrant dark cherry, plum, and dried fig layered with tobacco, cedar, toasted oak, and vanilla bean.

Flavors: Rich, supple palate with concentrated dark fruit, barrel spice, and velvety tannins. Long and beautifully balanced finish of fig, cherry, and dark chocolate.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES: At Franciscan Estate, we love Merlot. It is part of our heritage as a key component of our Magnificat. Our Reserve Merlot came out of a desire to highlight some of the best that our Merlot vineyards can produce. The wine features fruit from Oak Knoll, which lends deep plum and cherry fruit, richness, and density. We blend in Merlot from Carneros for floral notes, velvety texture, and brightness. Each small parcel of vineyard is vinified separately to capture its individual expression, then paired with a barrel specifically selected for that vineyard's terroir. Throughout the months of aging, we fine tune the blend to its final assemblage. This wine shows intensity with a Merlot sensibility—grace and restraint, balance, and refinement.
—Janet Myers, Winemaker

WINEMAKER: Janet Myers

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

AVERAGE BRIX AT HARVEST: 24°–26°

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

93% Merlot, 6% Syrah, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon

FERMENTATION: Pre-fermentation cols soak of four days to enhance color and body. Fermentation and maceration averaging 22 days to build structure and integrate mouthfeel.

BARREL AGING: 20 months in small oak barrels; 60% new

COOPERS: François Frères, Boutes, Damy

PH: 3.62

TA: 5.9g/L

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

RELEASE DATE: April 2016

CASES PRODUCED: 2,500

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE \$45

GROWING SEASON: The 2013 vintage developed under near-perfect growing conditions which led to an early harvest with the first Merlot arriving from Carneros on September 12. Oak Knoll Merlot was right on its heels in mid-September with the last lots coming in before October 1. Spring conditions were warm and dry, leading 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 create a truly phenomenal vintage.

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