

2007 Russian River Merlot

VINTAGE: 2007

APPELLATION: Sonoma County, Russian River Valley, California

COMPOSITION: 100% Merlot

OAK PLAN: 40% New Oak - 70% French 30% US

BOTTLED DATE: March 30, 2009

ALCOHOL: 13.7% harvested at 23.6 Brix

WINEMAKER COMMENTS:

The Merlot vines are over 30 years old and planted on St. George root stock. The vineyard is dry grown and is low yield at 3 tons per acre. The deep root system produces an amazing range of flavors at fairly low sugar levels, resulting in a more European style wine, but with an intensity and opulence of fruit that is so recognizably California. The grapes were picked at 23.6 Brix on September 14, 2007. Capturing as many whole berries as possible, followed by a 4 day cold soak, gives the wine an extraordinary depth of fruit. Co-fermented in 2 separate open top tanks and a combination of punch downs, submerged cap and pump overs were utilized. The temperature was kept on the cool side to preserve the more delicate and pretty fruit characters. The wine was in the barrel for 16 months. An extended maceration has softened the tannins and given this wine a soft and silky mouth feel.

TASTING NOTES

True to classic Merlot aromas of cherries and plums are intertwined with soft peppercorn, dried herbs, cassis, blackberry and a touch of ripe cherry red pomegranate. From the nose to the mouth, the floral brings in the complexity and evolving array of flavors. Soft chalky tannins, freshly grated Italian truffles, black cherry fruit and a touch of milk chocolate rounds out the modest intensity of this pretty Merlot.

Pairs Well with : Italian Fare, Steak, Grilled Vegies, Lamb, Pork, Tomato based Pasta Dishes

Awards : **Best of Class** - 2010 LA International Wine Comp, **Best of Varietal** - 2010 International Eastern Comp, **Double Gold** - 2010 International Eastern Comp, **Double Gold** - 2010 Florida State International **Gold** - 2010 San Francisco Chronicle Comp, **Gold** - 2010 Finger Lakes International Comp, **Gold** - 2010 West Coast International Comp, **Gold** - 2010 LA International Wine Comp

