

ST. FRANCIS WINERY & VINEYARDS

1999 RESERVE MERLOT *Behler* SONOMA VALLEY

HARVEST September 1999

AGING Twenty-four months

STORAGE New American & French Oak

BOTTLING May 2002

ALCOHOL 14.2 % by volume

AGING POTENTIAL 10 years

A superb Merlot, named in honor of the Behler family, who first cultivated a portion of the rich Sonoma Valley floor land in the early 1900's, previously recognized as St. Francis' original estate vineyard and winery site. Well-drained rock and gravel topped with rich loam ensures abundant concentrated fruit, while the valley microclimate, tempered by cooling breezes and morning fogs from both the Pacific and San Francisco Bay, is an essential key in the development of superior complex flavors of cherry, chocolate, coffee, and plum that distinguishes this wine. Throughout the growing season vine canopies are thinned for increased sun exposure, which further concentrates flavor and color. Hand harvested in late September, the fruit was crushed and raked in oak and aged twenty-four to thirty months, then held an additional ten months before release.

