

ST. FRANCIS WINERY & VINEYARDS

2011 MERLOT SONOMA VALLEY

STORAGE French Oak

AGING 16 months in barrel

BOTTLING August 2013

ALCOHOL 14.2% by volume

AGING POTENTIAL 5 to 6 years

BLEND PERCENTAGE 75% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Sauvignon, remainder a blend of Petit Verdot, Malbec and Mixed Blacks

VINTAGE

The harvest in 2011 was lighter and later than normal, but fruit quality remained high. The cool growing season gave grapes plenty of time to develop complex flavors and aromas and preserved natural acids. Those attributes created wines that have great structure, balance and rich, concentrated flavors.

WINEMAKING

Our founder Joe Martin was the first grower to plant Merlot in Sonoma Valley. Merlot thrives in this picturesque valley where warm days are cooled by evening breezes and fog from the Pacific Ocean. The grapes in our Sonoma Valley Merlot come from our Estate Behler and Wild Oak vineyards, as well as from top growers throughout the area. Each carefully selected vineyard contributes distinctive and individual qualities to the finished wine.

The grapes are gently de-stemmed and crushed before cold soaking for three days to extract optimal color and flavor. The fruit is inoculated with many different yeast strains to build complexity and fermented in separate lots using a combination of pump overs and delestage to soften tannins. Secondary malolactic fermentation occurs in 100% French oak barrels.

TASTING NOTES

This Merlot is smooth and elegant with classic flavors and aromas of chocolate, cherry and plum. Its silky structure is balanced by soft tannins and a bold, lengthy finish.

