

1997
Merlot
Michael Black Vineyard
Napa Valley

VINEYARD

- ◆ OWNER/MGR: MICHAEL BLACK
- ◆ APPELLATION: NAPA VALLEY
- ◆ CLONES: BLACK ON 420A, CLONE 1 ON 101-14
- ◆ AGE: 11 YEARS
- ◆ SITE: THE HILLSIDE SOILS ARE ROCKY AND LOW IN ORGANIC MATERIAL, VOLCANIC TUFT. VINE DENSITY IS 1000 PLANTS/ACRE. THERE ARE TWO SMALL PARCELS LOCATED IN THE COOMBSVILLE AREA, EAST OF THE TOWN OF NAPA.
- ◆ YIELD: LESS THAN 3 TONS/ACRE

HARVEST

- ◆ HARVEST DATE: SEPTEMBER 10 AND 13, 1997
- ◆ HARVEST BRIX: 26.4° AND 26.2°
- ◆ GROWING SEASON: THE WARM, DRY SOILS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY TRIGGERED BUDBREAK A MONTH EARLY. A TEMPERATE SUMMER WITH MODERATE, STEADY TEMPERATURES ALLOWED THE FRUIT TO REACH OPTIMAL MATURITY WITH GOOD HANG TIME FOR THE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF CHARACTER AND FLAVORS.

WINEMAKING

- ◆ HAND HARVESTED GRAPES
- ◆ FERMENTED IN AN OPEN-TOP FERMENTOR , WITH PUNCHDOWN CAP MANAGEMENT
- ◆ 5-DAY COLD MACERATION, 28 DAYS TOTAL MACERATION
- ◆ FERMENTATION WITH INDIGENOUS YEAST
- ◆ 21-MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK BARRELS, 50% NEW
- ◆ UNBLENDED, UNFINED, UNFILTERED; BOTTLED AUGUST 1999

TASTING NOTES

- ◆ ENTICING AROMAS OF DRIED HERB, BLACK CHERRY, AND SWEET VANILLA. RIPE, RICH MOUTH-FILLING FLAVORS OF BLACKBERRY AND TRUFFLE. THE STYLISH, SWEET FRUIT FLAVORS ARE BROAD ACROSS THE MID-PALATE, WITH A FIRM TANNIC BACKBONE. THIS IS AN ELEGANT WINE THAT WILL CONTINUE TO UNFOLD ITS CHARMS FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO COME. ALCOHOL 14.2%.

806 CASES PRODUCED.