

1998
Merlot
Michael Black Vineyard
Napa Valley

VINEYARD

- ◆ OWNER/MGR: MICHAEL BLACK
- ◆ APPELLATION: NAPA VALLEY
- ◆ CLONE: BLACK ON 420A
- ◆ AGE: 12 YEARS
- ◆ SITE: IN THE COOMBSVILLE AREA EAST OF THE TOWN OF NAPA. A SOUTHEAST EXPOSURE ON A HILLSIDE WITH ROCKY, VOLCANIC SOILS.
- ◆ YIELD: LESS THAN 1 TON/ACRE

HARVEST

- ◆ HARVEST DATE: OCTOBER 10
- ◆ HARVEST BRIX: 25.0°
- ◆ GROWING SEASON: A COOL, DAMP, SPRING DELAYED THE START OF THE GROWING SEASON, AND CONTRIBUTED TO A SMALL CROP YIELD. AN EXTENDED, WARM INDIAN SUMMER ALLOWED THE FRUIT TO REACH MATURITY WITH RICH, COMPLEX FLAVORS.

WINEMAKING

- ◆ HAND HARVESTED GRAPES
- ◆ FERMENTED IN AN OPEN-TOP STAINLESS STEEL FERMENTORS
- ◆ 5-DAY COLD MACERATION, 21 DAYS TOTAL MACERATION
- ◆ FERMENTATION WITH INDIGENOUS YEAST
- ◆ 19-MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK BARRELS, 70% NEW
- ◆ UNBLENDED, UNFINED, UNFILTERED; BOTTLED AUGUST 2000

NOTES

- ◆ INTENSE AROMAS OF BLACK CURRANT, BLACK CHERRY, AND BLUEBERRY, WITH A SLIGHT HINT OF BLACK PEPPER. RICH, VELVETY MOUTH-FILLING FLAVORS OF BLACK CHERRY AND LICORICE. RIPE TANNINS AMPLIFY THE SILKY SMOOTH TEXTURE. THIS IS AN EXQUISITELY BALANCED WINE, REMARKABLE FOR THE PURITY OF ITS FRUIT AND COMPLEX STRUCTURE. ALCOHOL 14.5%.

160 CASES PRODUCED.