

1999 Merlot Michael Black Vineyard Napa Valley

VINEYARD

- ◆ OWNER/MGR: MICHAEL BLACK
- ◆ APPELLATION: NAPA VALLEY
- ◆ CLONE: BLACK ON 420A
- ◆ AGE: 13 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 2 TONS/ACRE

HARVEST

- ◆ HARVEST DATE: OCTOBER 13, 1999
- ◆ HARVEST BRIX: 25.9°
- ◆ GROWING SEASON: THE COOL SUMMER MONTHS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER OF NAPA VALLEY WERE IDEAL CONDITIONS TO DEVELOP INTENSE FLAVORS AND COMPLEXITY IN THE GRAPES. THE WARM INDIAN SUMMER WEATHER IN OCTOBER FULLY RIPENED THE FRUIT TO PRODUCE SOME OF THE BEST WINES OF THE DECADE.

WINEMAKING

- ◆ HAND HARVESTED GRAPES
- ◆ FERMENTED IN AN OPEN-TOP STAINLESS STEEL FERMENTORS
- ◆ 5-DAY COLD MACERATION, 21 DAYS TOTAL MACERATION
- ◆ FERMENTATION WITH INDIGENOUS YEAST
- ◆ 18-MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK BARRELS, 65% NEW
- ◆ UNBLENDED, UNFINED, UNFILTERED; BOTTLED APRIL, 2001

NOTES

- ◆ DEEP RED/PURPLE COLOR. THE SCENTS OF BLACK FRUITS AND CHERRY MINGLE WITH ANISE ON THE NOSE. FLAVORS OF BLACK CHERRY, DARK CHOCOLATE, BLACK PEPPER, AND GRAPHITE EXUDE FROM A DENSE CORE JUST STARTING TO REVEAL THE FULL DEPTH OF THE WINE'S CHARACTER. THIS IS A SUPPLE, VOLUPTUOUS, HARMONIOUS WINE FILLED WITH FLAVORS THAT PERSIST LONG AFTER IT IS SWALLOWED. ALCOHOL 14.5%.

379 CASES PRODUCED.