

## 2000 Merlot Michael Black Vineyard Napa Valley

### VINEYARD

- ◆ OWNER/MGR: MICHAEL BLACK
- ◆ APPELLATION: NAPA VALLEY
- ◆ CLONE: BLACK ON 420A
- ◆ AGE: 14 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 2.0 TONS/ACRE

### HARVEST

- ◆ HARVEST DATE: SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>
- ◆ HARVEST BRIX: 24.9°
- ◆ GROWING SEASON: WARM DAYS AND COOL NIGHTS DURING THE GROWING SEASON RESULTED IN A CROP WITH EXCELLENT COLOR, FULLY DEVELOPED FLAVORS AND GREAT ACIDITY. DILIGENT WORK IN THE VINEYARD TO LIMIT A LARGE CROP SET HELPED OPTIMIZE RICHNESS IN THE GRAPES. COOL WEATHER DURING HARVEST PROVIDED ENHANCED FLAVOR DEVELOPMENT.

### 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 2002

### NOTES

- ◆ DEEP RED/BLACK COLOR. AROMAS OF BLACKBERRY, CINNAMON, CEDAR, AND DRIED ROSES EXUDE FROM THE GLASS. ON THE PALATE THE WINE REVEALS RICHNESS WRAPPED WITH FRUIT AND MILK CHOCOLATE FLAVORS, MADE MORE INTRIGUING WITH A TRACE OF SPICE AND EARTH. MEDIUM — BODIED, THIS IS AN ELEGANT WINE THAT IS ENJOYABLE NOW AND WILL BE FOR YEARS TO COME. ALCOHOL 14.6%.

343 CASES PRODUCED