

2001 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 28TH
- ◆ 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, 61% NEW
- ◆ BOTTLED JUNE 2003: UNFINED AND UNFILTERED;

NOTES

- ◆ DEEP RED/BLACK COLOR. AROMAS OF BLUEBERRY, CINNAMON, AND CEDAR. BIG CONCENTRATED FLAVORS ON THE PALATE REVEAL RICHNESS OF CHERRY FRUIT FLAVORS, MADE MORE INTRIGUING WITH A TRACE OF SPICE AND EARTH. FULL-BODIED, THIS IS AN ELEGANT WINE THAT IS ENJOYABLE NOW AND WILL BE FOR YEARS TO COME. ALCOHOL 14.7%.

422 CASES PRODUCED