

# Paul Hobbs

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## 2003 Merlot Michael Black Vineyard Napa Valley

### Final Vintage

#### Vineyard

- ◆ Owner/Mgr: Michael Black
- ◆ Appellation: Napa Valley
- ◆ Clones: Black, One
- ◆ Vine Age: 15 years
- ◆ Site: In the Coombsville area east of the town of Napa. A southeast exposure on a hillside with rocky, volcanic soils.
- ◆ Yield: 2.5 tons/acre

#### Harvest

- ◆ Harvest date: October 2
- ◆ Harvest Brix: 26.6°
- ◆ Growing Season: The growing season was comprised of cool spring weather followed by moderate temperatures throughout summer. Consistent work in the vineyard was required to maximize sun exposure and encourage full flavor development in the fruit. Much needed hot weather in mid-September secured an excellent harvest (crop).

#### Winemaking

- ◆ Hand-harvested grapes
- ◆ Fermented in 5-ton closed-top stainless steel fermentors with indigenous yeasts
- ◆ 6-day cold soak, 22 days total maceration
- ◆ Spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrels; 4 months to completion
- ◆ Aged 21 months in oak barrels (85% French, 15% American); 77% new
- ◆ Varietal composition: 100% merlot
- ◆ Unblended, unfinned and unfiltered; bottled July 2005

#### Notes

- ◆ This wine is a profoundly saturated blue/black with aromas of violets and blackberries exuding from the glass. On the palate it reveals richness wrapped with black cherry, vanilla and dark chocolate. Traces of earth and cedar complete this intriguing "cabernet lover's merlot" with firm yet silky tannins and a heady finish. This is a massive yet supple and stylish wine to enjoy for years to come. Alcohol 14.7%