



## 2013 MERLOT

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Number of Cases: 300

Alcohol: 14.9%

### TASTING NOTES

The nose opens with clove and cinnamon sticks, which leads into beautiful notes of black cherry, cocoa powder, tobacco, and pie crust. The dominant flavor on the palate is Bing cherry covered in dark chocolate. The mouthfeel is surprisingly elegant and finessed with bright acidity.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

The grapes went through a 5-day cold soak to extract maximum color. The wine was pumped over 4 times daily, pressed to barrel and aged in 50% new French oak with minimal racking during its 20 months of aging.

### VINEYARD NOTES

Located on the valley floor in the iconic growing region of Rutherford, this slightly warmer area provides that famous “Rutherford Dust”, a term coined to describe the dusty, earthy, sometimes chocolate flavors found in the rich, full bodied wines that come from the area.

### VINTAGE NOTES

The 2013 vintage will be one to remember and reminds Napa vintners of some of the very best vintages of the past few decades. A mild spring led to a good fruit set. Summer and fall brought warm temperatures, but no heat spikes. All of the fruit enjoyed long, slow ripening, driving more intense fruit flavors and complexity. These wines will be full bodied, with soft and supple tannins. The colors are vibrant and rich for whites, and nearly inky black for reds. Overall, it's a fantastic vintage.

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$52

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