



ROBERT MONDAVI
WINERY

2 0 0 9

M E R L O T

N A P A V A L L E Y

We source only quality vineyards in the Napa Valley for this Merlot to ensure that it is concentrated, harmonious and memorable.

Genevieve Janssens - Director of Winemaking

• W I N E •

Varietal composition:

93% Merlot
3% Cabernet Franc
2% Cabernet Sauvignon
2% Malbec

Flavor descriptors:

Robed in deep ruby, the 2009 Merlot opens with the intense aroma of plummy black fruit interwoven with blueberry, mocha, tobacco and a touch of bay leaf. A hint of vibrant pomegranate adds a lively note to the lush, full-bodied flavors, complemented by round, supple tannins.

Wine analysis:

Total acid: 6.4 g/L
Final pH: 3.5
Residual sugar: .42 g/L
Alcohol: 14.9% by volume

• V I N T A G E •

This was a classic, nearly-textbook growing season of warm, sunny days and cool, foggy nights punctuated by a couple of brief heat blasts - the perfect recipe for long, flavor-building hangtime and ideal sugar to acid balance. It was remarkably smooth sailing when we began picking Cabernet Sauvignon on September 19 until a rare tropical storm interrupted the harvest, soaking parts of the Central and Northern California vineyards with more than 4 inches of rain over three days. Fortunately, we had harvested all of our white grape varieties and 91 percent of our reds when the storm blew in on October 13th. We gave the small amount of thick-skinned, rain-resistant Cabernet Sauvignon left to be harvested a few days to dry out and accumulate optimal sugar before resuming the harvest, finishing up on October 23rd. The most common themes for the vintage were low yields of small, flavorful berries and excellent flavor maturity.

• V I N E Y A R D S •

This is a classic Napa Valley blend that brings together the best of three American Viticultural Areas (AVAs). Merlot vines are particularly sensitive to differences in *terroir*, and each of these sub regions of the Napa Valley contributes something a little different to the blend. The Stag's Leap District, renowned for its velvety delivery, was our primary source and offers the smooth, fleshy mouthfeel we look for in Merlot. Our To Kalon Vineyard, in the Oakville District, brings opulence and structure to the blend. For elegance and food-friendly acidity we looked to the breezy Carneros District.

Appellation: Napa Valley

Grape Sourcing: 73% Stags Leap District, including 38% Wappo Hill Vineyard; 15% To Kalon Vineyard; 12% Napa Carneros

• W I N E M A K I N G •

The grapes were hand-harvested in the cool of the morning, gently crushed and inoculated for a warm fermentation setting the stage for maximum flavor extraction while keeping the tannins in check. 17 days of extended maceration further enhanced color and flavor and polished the tannins for a lush, round mouthfeel. The new wine was transferred to French oak barrels (15% new) for malolactic fermentation and aged for fourteen months. The wine was bottled in June of 2011.