



GOSECROSS®

NAPA VALLEY

Napa Valley Merlot

Vintage 2008 – *our ninth flight*

Our Estate vineyard, with its well-drained, rocky soil, abundance of sunshine, and breezy afternoons, is the perfect place to grow Merlot grapes. Merlot produces a soft, fruity, and fairly rich wine, making it instantly popular and one of the most commonly planted wine grapes.

Winemaker Notes

Overall, the season was a cool one, allowing for plenty of hangtime, punctuated by a few blasts of heat to bring up the sugars. Rain was about two thirds of a normal year, but the vines reacted as if there was a drought, producing unusually small grapes. The small berry size explains the tremendous intensity of color and flavor in red wines from this vintage year.

- **Flavor profile:** Ripe black cherry, raspberry, cocoa, mocha, cinnamon, all spice, toasty oak
- **2008 Vintage:** A roller-coaster of a growing season yielding low quantities of high quality fruit
- **Drink now and through:** 2014

Food Suggestions

Enjoy our Merlot with everything from roast duck and other game birds to prime rib. It pairs well with nuts and medium-hard to hard cheeses like Comté or Aged Gouda. From Colleen's recipe collection we recommend **Spring Lamb with Honey-Thyme Root Vegetables**.

Technical Notes

- Total Cases: 604
- Appellation: 100% Napa Valley
- Component: 100% Merlot
- Alcohol: 14.2%
- Stainless Fermented: 100%
- French Oak: 100%
- Oak Aging: 16 months
- Harvest date: September 3, 2008
- Bottling date: June 2, 2010



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