

## 1992 ESTATE MERLOT

<b>Blend:</b>	100% Merlot
<b>Appellation:</b>	Napa Valley
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.1%
<b>pH:</b>	3.62
<b>Total Acid:</b>	.67
<b>Aging:</b>	14 months in French Nevers Oak
<b>Harvest Date:</b>	September 30, 1992

The 1992 Estate Merlot marks the third release from our estate vineyards located in the Oak Knoll area of Napa Valley. A small block, only 12 acres of our vineyard was planted to Merlot in the mid 1980's, in a site uniquely suited to this varietal. The cool temperatures and foggy mornings in our vineyard allow the fruit a long growing season for maximum flavor development and good acidity. In the vineyard we pay special attention to canopy and yield management. This is accomplished through shoot thinning, leafing and fruit thinning. The result is a wine with a tremendous concentration of flavors.

We harvested our 1992 Merlot on September 30, 1992. After completion of fermentation 7 days later, the wine was allowed to macerate with the skins an additional 15 days, softening the tannins and extracting color. The resulting wine was aged gently in French Nevers oak barrels for an additional 14 months.

This wine is full-bodied with plenty of stuffing but offers the suppleness that is typical of this varietal. Layers of black cherry and other black fruit flavors are

packed into this wine with a touch of new French oak and round tannins that will allow it to continue to develop for many years to come.