

WATERSTONE

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2007 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Vintage

The 2007 growing season in Napa Valley began dry and warm, with early budding, bloom and set. Low spring precipitation, followed by a relatively cool summer, allowed good hangtime and associated flavor development. While cluster counts were normal, the dry season led to smaller berries and lower yields. Overall, the vintage is noted for great acid levels and outstanding quality.

Vineyards

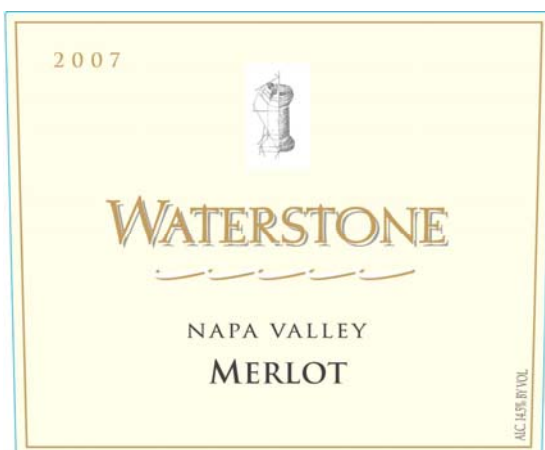
The backbone of this Merlot is derived from the Truchard Vineyard in Carneros, where half the grapes are sourced from a relatively cool region. The balance of fruit is sourced from Chiles Valley, adding layers of rich fruit to the palate. The small berry clusters and intense fruit from low-yielding vines create a wine with full flavor and longevity.


Vinification

Vineyards were hand-picked at the peak of maturity. Following harvest, the grapes were gently crushed and fermented. The wines were then aged in small French oak barrels with extended lees contact for eighteen months. Only 35% new barrels were used to maintain maximum fruit flavors with just a hint of toasty oak.

Tasting Notes

Sweet cherry, ripe plum, hints of vanilla and overtones of anise and aged leather appear in the aroma. On the palate, this generous wine features cherry, plum and blackberry fruit with supple tannins and a lingering finish.




Philip Zorn, Winemaker

Technical Data:

Varietal Composition	100% Merlot
Appellation	Napa Valley
Alcohol	15.1%
TA	0.58g/100ml
pH	3.57
Oak Aging	18 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 30% new
Bottling Date	September 8, 2009
Production	1,404 cases
Suggested Retail	\$18

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