

WATERSTONE

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2004 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Vintage

The early spring bud break of 2004, coupled with several late summer hot spells, led to one of the earliest Napa Valley harvests in a decade. In general, the crop was small, especially when measured in size of berries, but it provided great flavor concentration — the accountant's nightmare and the winemaker's dream.

Vineyards

The grapes for this wine were selected from several vineyards in the Carneros district of Napa Valley. The region is noted for its cool climate and low yields, being situated on the north side of the San Francisco Bay. 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 twenty-four 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	92% Merlot 8% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Napa Valley
Alcohol	14.9%
TA	0.71 g/100ml
pH	3.54
Oak Aging	21 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 35% new
Bottling Date	August 16, 2006
Production	1332 cases
Suggested Retail	\$18