

WATERSTONE

P. O Box 6979
Napa, California 94581
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2005 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Vintage

With the exception of March, 2005 got off to a wet start with record rainfall well into spring. A relatively late bloom and set was followed by a mild summer with few heat spikes, allowing slow, even ripening of a larger than average crop. Ideal weather persisted through the extended harvest, allowing for excellent sugar development, balanced acids, and fully developed flavors.

Vineyards

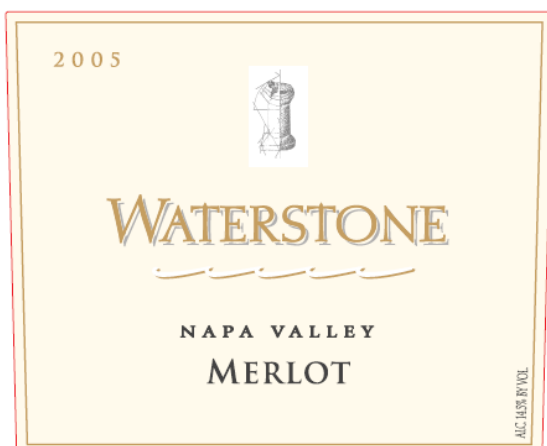
The grapes for this wine were selected from several vineyards in the Carneros district of Napa Valley. The region is noted for its cool climate and low yields, being situated on the north side of the San Francisco Bay. The small berry clusters and intense fruit from low-yielding vines create a wine with 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	100% Merlot
Appellation	Napa Valley
Alcohol	14.8%
TA	0.59 g/100ml
pH	3.73
Oak Aging	15 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 35% new
Bottling Date	March 15, 2007
Production	1835 cases
Suggested Retail	\$18