

WATERSTONE

P. O Box 6979
Napa, California 94581
www.waterstonewines.com

2006 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Vintage

With the exception of a dramatic July heat spike, the 2006 growing season was marked by few superlatives. A relatively cool growing season, including one of the coolest Septembers on record, led to extended hangtime and fully developed flavors. Ideal weather persisted through the extended harvest, allowing for excellent sugar development and balanced acids.

Vineyards

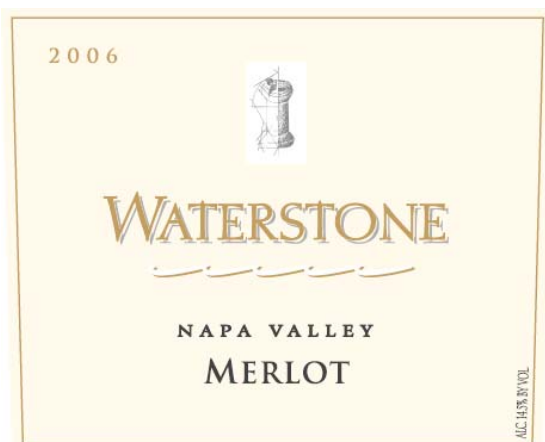
The backbone of this Merlot is derived from the Truchard Vineyard in Carneros, where half the grapes are sourced from a relatively cool region. The balance of fruit is sourced from Chiles Valley, adding layers of rich fruit to the palate. The small berry clusters and intense fruit from low-yielding vines 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	90% Merlot 10% Cabernet Sauvignon
Appellation	Napa Valley
Alcohol	14.5%
TA	0.59 g/100ml
pH	3.68
Oak Aging	18 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 35% new
Bottling Date	May 14, 2008
Production	1645 cases