

# WATERSTONE

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

## 2011 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

### Vintage

*The 2011 growing season proved to be a challenge in Napa Valley. A wet winter and spring extended with rainfall into mid-June, delaying bloom and set. A long, cool growing season followed, which forced growers to open canopies to ensure sunlight and warmth. Harvest was further hampered by autumn rain storms, which encouraged an earlier-than-normal harvest. Overall, quality of fruit is high, and lower alcohols are expected for the vintage.*

### Vineyards

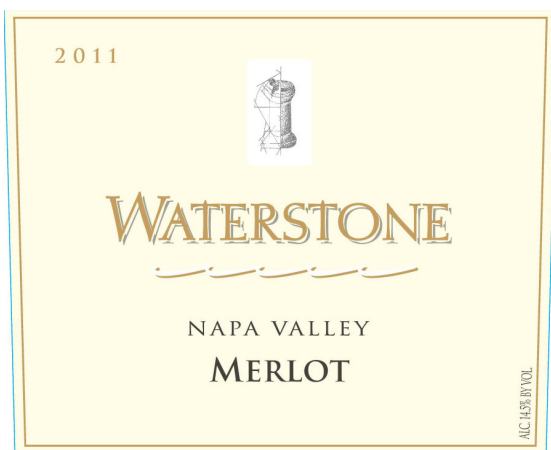
*The backbone of this Merlot is derived from the Truchard Vineyard in Carneros, where half the grapes are sourced from a relatively cool region. The balance of fruit is sourced from the Nichelini Vineyard in Chiles Valley, adding layers of rich fruit to the palate. The small berry clusters and intense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

### 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.*



### Technical Data:

Varietal Composition	100% Merlot
Appellation	Napa Valley
Alcohol	14.6%
TA	0.61g/100ml
pH	3.55
Oak Aging	24 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 35% new
Bottling Date	February 28, 2014
Production	544 cases

  
Philip Zorn, Winemaker