

WATERSTONE

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2014 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Vintage

The 2014 harvest arrived early and with a bang; our first grapes arrived a few days prior to the South Napa Earthquake. The growing season was marked by “near perfect” weather, following a winter with half of the normal rainfall. With one of the driest years on record, the vines yielded smaller berries with good flavor concentration. Overall yields were above average, but below the large crops of the prior two harvests; quality is high, with good depth of flavor.

Vineyards

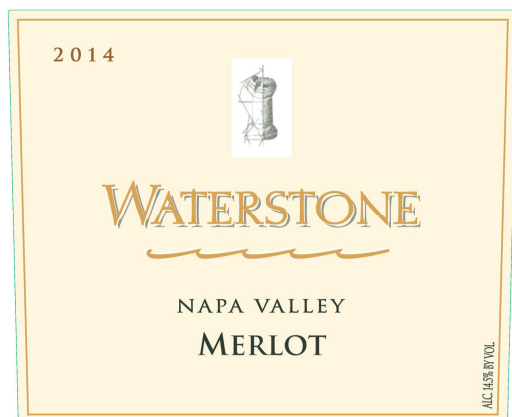
The backbone of this Merlot is derived from the Truchard Vineyard in Carneros, where half the grapes are sourced from a relatively cool region. The balance of fruit is sourced from the Nichelini Vineyard in Chiles Valley, adding layers of rich fruit to the palate. The small berry clusters and intense 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	0.65g/100ml
pH	3.36
Oak Aging	24 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 35% new
Bottling Date	December 13, 2016
Production	978 cases