

WATERSTONE

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

2009 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Vintage

2009 proved to be a mild, relatively cool growing season. Without much frost nor many heat spikes, the lack of rain (2/3 of normal for the third consecutive year) did not present any challenges. Overall, the vintage provided extended hang time for the grapes without excessive ripeness, leading to forward, bright fruit with mature flavors and tannins.

Vineyards

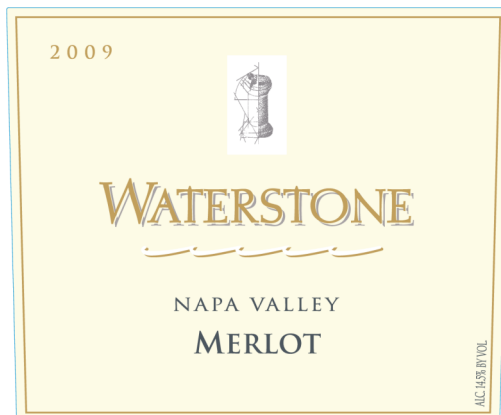
The backbone of this Merlot is derived from the Truchard Vineyard in Carneros, where half the grapes are sourced from a relatively cool region. The balance of fruit is sourced from Chiles Valley, adding layers of rich fruit to the palate. The small berry clusters and intense fruit from low-yielding vines 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 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	14.4%
TA	0.61g/100ml
pH	3.47
Oak Aging	24 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 30% new
Bottling Date	March 2, 2012
Production	995 cases


Philip Zorn, Winemaker