

WATERSTONE

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2013 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Vintage

A warm, dry spring brought early bud break in 2013; we experienced ideal conditions for flowering and fruit set. With the exception of one heat spike in late June/early July, temperatures were consistently in the zone for optimal vine activity. Early ripening varieties came off the vines by early September, with perfect ripeness and ideal hang time. Two brief mid-September rains had virtually no impact, as sunny weather dried the grapes almost immediately. Cool, sunny weather throughout October allowed great flavor development. Overall, the 2013 harvest was early, even and excellent.

Vineyards

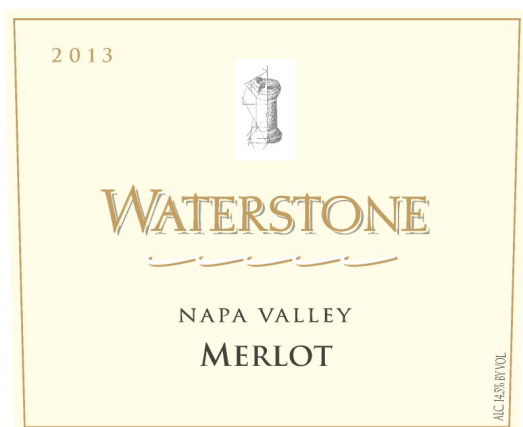
The backbone of this Merlot is derived from the Truchard Vineyard in Carneros, where half the grapes are sourced from a relatively cool region. The balance of fruit is sourced from the Nichelini Vineyard in Chiles Valley, adding layers of rich fruit to the palate. The small berry clusters and intense 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 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.



Technical Data:

Varietal Composition	100% Merlot
Appellation	Napa Valley
Alcohol	14.6%
TA	0.61g/100ml
pH	3.54
Oak Aging	18 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 35% new
Bottling Date	July 13, 2015
Production	970 cases


Philip Zorn, Winemaker