

R COLLECTION

2006 california
merlot

in the vineyard

A portion of the grapes for R Collection Merlot come from Napa Valley, with the balance coming from prime Merlot vineyards at the base of the Sierra Foothills and San Joaquin Valley. These regions are characterized by warm days that develop richness and intensity in the fruit and cool nights that enhance the varietal flavors of the Merlot.

The 2006 growing season was marked by mild spring and summer weather extending ripening periods by several weeks. Grapes for R Collection Merlot were picked in September and early October.

conversations with the winemakers

After hand picking and crushing, the fruit was fermented in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks with full skin contact for maximum color and flavor. The wine was aged for fourteen months in medium toast French and American oak barrels to compliment the natural Merlot fruit character. Before bottling, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petite Verdot were blended in for added depth, structure and concentration, as well as to enhance the wine's flavor profile.

wine profile

A fruit forward wine that opens with aromas of red cherry, red plum, cassis, raspberry, anise, chocolate and spice. This rich Merlot fills the mouth with Bing cherry, plum, raspberry and boysenberry with notes of clove and peppery spice before the smooth vanilla finish. Full-bodied, yet approachable, this wine is well structured with a good balance of fruit, acid and tannins.

food pairing

A perfect companion for food, this Merlot's fruit and balance lends itself to a wide range of cuisines. Pair with grilled salmon, pork tenderloin, barbequed chicken and ribs, burgers, pulled pork sandwiches, your favorite pizza, spicy sausages or kebabs. Try with steak and shrimp fajitas, Thai red curry, Moroccan tagine, baked rigatoni or hearty winter soups and stews.

cellaring potential

While delicious at release, this wine possesses enough tannin and structure to age 3-5 years beyond the vintage date.

technical notes

Appellation: California
Blend: 75% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petite Verdot
pH: 3.59
Total Acidity: 0.63 g/100ml
Wine Alcohol: 14.4%
Release Date: September 2009