



2011 SMALL LOT NAPA VALLEY MERITAGE



TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Napa Valley

Varietal: 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 14% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc,

Alcohol: 14.5% by vol.

pH: 3.62

TA: 6.81 g/L

Ageing: 18 months in French, 50% new

Case Production: 224 cases

IN THE VINEYARD

2011 was as challenging as it was educational. What began with a wet winter and spring continued with rainfall into mid-June. The precipitation totals for the season found the region more than a third above normal in rainfall, and while this was good news for water resources, the cloud cover and cool temperatures delayed vine development by several weeks at the onset of the growing season. Despite this, we found that the flavors from this vintage developed at lower brix, giving us the opportunity to make truly elegant wine.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

The grapes for this Meritage are grown in the famed Napa Valley appellation, specifically from our Fotsch, Kennific, Shifflett, and Jamieson Canyon vineyards. The blend is made up of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, and Cabernet Franc providing an array of varietal characteristics to work with when crafting the wine. Cabernet Sauvignon provides richness to the wine, while Merlot contributes to the silky mouth feel. The Cabernet Franc provides stunning aromatics while the Petit Verdot lends backbone to the overall structure of the wine resulting in a blend that will age nicely over the next 8-10 years. This Meritage is 100% barrel-aged for 18 months in French oak, 50% new.

WINE PROFILE

Our 2011 Small Lot Napa Valley Meritage is an elegant wine that opens with inviting aromas of black cherry, red liquorice, and mulled spices. On the palate, the wine is incredibly balanced, offering flavors of ripe red fruits and tea leaf accented by a hint of tobacco and minerality. With a structured tannin finish and nice acidity, this wine pairs perfectly with any classic pasta dish with marinara sauce.