



2002 MERLOT

TECHNICAL NOTES

Release Date:	March 1, 2005	Bottled:	April 27, 2004
Suggested Retail:	\$90 per bottle	Alcohol:	15.5%
Winemaker:	Erin Green	PH:	3.78
Harvest dates:	September 27 to October 12, 2002	Total Acidity:	0.568
Composition:	96% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon		
Appellation			
Composition:	59% Napa Valley, 16% Russian River Valley, 14% Howell Mountain, 11% Yountville		

TASTING NOTES

Comprised of 96% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2002 vintage Merlot is another gloriously rich, profuse elixir in the classic Pahlmeyer style. Within a structure similar to a French Pomerol, lies a classic California concentration of ripe, rich fruit.

WINEMAKER NOTES

The grapes were given a five-day cold soak before fermentation, fermented on their own natural yeast, and aged nineteen months in 100% new French oak barrels. The wine was bottled with neither fining nor filtration on April 27, 2004.

RATINGS

Robert Parker, *The Wine Advocate*, Issue 157, February 2005:

The big, rich, layered, complex, opulent 2002 Merlot boasts an opaque purple color along with a rich bouquet of black fruits intermixed with chocolate, cocoa, and smoke. A seriously endowed effort with wonderful sweetness, a sensual tactile impression, and a long, heady finish, it will drink well for a decade. **91 points**

Stephen Tanzer, *International Wine Cellar*, May/June 2005:

Full ruby-red. Roasted plum, blackberry, blueberry, licorice and bitter chocolate on the nose. Intensely flavored and sweet, with harmonious acidity framing the complex, slightly saline flavors of dark berries and game. Finishes with lovely lift and length, with the fine-grained tannins arriving late. A strong vintage for this bottling. **93 points**

Wine Spectator, Issue May 15, 2005:

A rich, concentrated yet elegant wine, with layers of mocha, currant and blackberry fruit. Tightens up on the finish, where the tannins flex their muscles. Intensity of the oak suggests short-term cellaring. Best from 2006 through 2012. **91 points**

AVAILABILITY

The Pahlmeyer 2002 Napa Valley Merlot is available March 1, 2005 either directly from the winery, or through our network of fine restaurants and retail merchants around the world. For further information, please visit us at www.pahlmeyer.com.