



2012 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

HARVESTED		October 6-21, 2012
VINEYARDS		Pahlmeyer Waters Ranch, Las Amigas, Stagecoach
BOTTLED		May 5, 2014
COMPOSITION		91% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon
ALCOHOL		15.2%
WINEMAKER		Kale Anderson

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2012 growing season began relatively dry, continuing with a warm spring and perfect weather for fruit set. The vines produced a record amount of high-quality small-berry clusters, enabling us to nurture the crop with great precision. In all, we kept just half the initial yield to ensure optimal ripeness. The berries developed exceptionally rich flavor, color and density, most notably in the Merlot.

WINEMAKING NOTES

The grape clusters were hand-sorted, de-stemmed, and individual berries selected by our winemaking team. After three to nine days of a gentle cold soak in small open-top fermenters, the fruit began 100% native yeast fermentation. After two weeks, the fruit was gently pressed and the juice was moved to barrel where it finished primary and malolactic fermentation, also native. The wine continued to age in 75% new, super fine-grained, medium-plus and heavy toasted French oak Bordeaux export barrels for eighteen months. The wine was bottled unfiltered and minimally filtered.

TASTING NOTES

Indigo at the core with garnet edges, this gorgeous Merlot leads with aromas of candied violet, red plum and ripe fig. A beautiful freshness accompanies mouthwatering flavors of dark red cherry and raspberry, layers of deep blue fruits and sophisticated notes of savory grilled herbs. Ultra-plush and velvety with rich dark chocolate, espresso and earthy riverstone emerging throughout the luxurious finish.

CELLARING

Best from 2017 through 2025, approaching a plateau in 2030. Enjoy upon release with at least 90 minutes of decanting. With proper cellaring, this Merlot will continue to evolve, revealing ever more expressive aromatics and an increasingly seamless, complex finish.

REVIEWS

“Another knock out. Dark red cherry, plum, mocha, spices and new leather flesh out in a seamless Merlot with soft contours and exceptional overall balance. Readers will have a hard time keeping their hands off this utterly impeccable, polished Merlot from Pahlmeyer. All the elements are in the right place. Most importantly, the 2012 is flat-out delicious.”

93-95 points, Antonio Galloni, Vinous