

## DUCKHORN VINEYARDS



NAPA VALLEY

### **2005 Napa Valley Merlot Estate Grown**

#### **2005 Harvest Notes**

The 2005 season began with a wet winter and spring, which led to annual rainfall totals that were well above average. We had an ideal fruit set, which produced an abundant number of full grape clusters. As a result, the vintage yielded exceptional fruit for the season. The harvest lasted over two months—into the early days of November. In many ways the 2005 season was reminiscent of the excellent 1997 vintage, which offered an abundant harvest of remarkable quality.

#### **Comments from the Winemaker**

This full-bodied Merlot offers ripe, seductive flavors, well-integrated tannins and a sophisticated palate structure. The bouquet reveals layered aromatics of plum, vanilla bean and spice, as well as evocative notes of saddle leather, tobacco leaf and rich, moist earth. On the palate, these elements lead to rich blackberry, red cherry and mocha flavors, complemented by inviting notes of blueberry, loganberry and currant.

#### **Varietal Content**

84% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon  
2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

#### **Harvest Information**

Appellation: Napa Valley  
Harvest Dates: September 14 – October 31, 2005  
Average Sugar at Harvest: 26.7° Brix  
5 Estate Vineyards (Monitor Ledge, Rector Creek, Patzimaró, Stout and Candlestick Ridge)

#### **Cooperage**

100% French Oak, Chateau-Style Barrels (60 gallons)  
Barrel Aging: 20 Months  
Age of Barrels: 100% New

#### **Production/Technical Data**

Alcohol: 14.5%  
Titratable Acidity: 0.72 g/100ml  
pH: 3.38

Bottled: July 2007  
Released: April 2008