

**DUCKHORN**  
VINEYARDS



**2009 Carneros Napa Valley Merlot**

After falling in love with Merlot during a visit to Bordeaux, Dan Duckhorn started producing Duckhorn Vineyards Merlot in 1978. In the years since, grapes from the Napa County portion of Carneros have played a pivotal role in our Napa Valley Merlot program. Influenced by the cooling effect of the Pacific Ocean, Carneros is ideally suited for growing exceptional Merlot, yielding a wine with beautiful structure, velvety texture and lovely layers of plum and mulberry.

**2009 Harvest Notes**

From our first Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc blocks to our final red-varietal Estate picks, our 2009 harvest spanned more than two months. Though the 2009 growing season presented certain challenges—from early shatter to late-season rain—a thoughtful response in the vineyards yielded smaller-than-normal crops of high-quality fruit. This response included aggressive leafing, an early thinning protocol and a heavy field sort to select only the most desirable grapes.

**Comments from the Winemaker**

This wine showcases why Carneros Merlot grapes have always been an important part of our Napa Valley Merlot. Despite its smooth, velvety texture, there is an intensity that speaks to our love of structured, age-worthy Merlots. In the nose and on the palate, it is dominated by lovely layers of Black Doris plum, dark cherry, cocoa powder and nougat.

**Varietal Content**

100% Merlot

**Harvest Information**

Appellation: Napa Valley

Harvest Dates: October 6—October 11, 2009

Average Sugar at Harvest: 26.5° Brix

3 Vineyards Harvested

**Cooperage**

100% French Oak Château-style Barrels (60 Gallons)

Barrel Aging: 15 Months

Age of Barrels: 100% second vintage

**Production/Technical Data**

Alcohol: 14.5%

0.60 g/100 ml titratable acidity

8-10 days fermentation at 80°F

pH: 3.44

Bottled: May 2011

Release Date: April 2012

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**DUCKHORN WINE COMPANY**