

DUCKHORN
VINEYARDS



2009 Napa Valley Merlot
Three Palms Vineyard

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

With abundant red fruit notes and signature Three Palms minerality, this is a classic expression of the qualities that have made this vineyard legendary in the world of California Merlot. Aromas of cherry, raspberry and red currant are underscored by hints of cola and freshly rained on river rocks. On the palate, the tannins are firm and structured, supporting ample currant and fig flavors, as well as enticing spice. This age-worthy wine will benefit from decanting in its youth.

Varietal Content

82% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon
7% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

Harvest Information

Appellation: Napa Valley
Harvest Dates: September 10 – October 27, 2009
Average Sugar at Harvest: 27.2° Brix

Cooperage

100% French oak château-style barrels (60 gallons)
Barrel Aging: 18 Months
Age of Barrels: 95% New, 5% Second Vintage

Production/Technical Data

Alcohol: 14.5%
Titratable Acidity: 0.58 g/100ml
pH: 3.60

Bottled: July 2011
Released: April 2012