

DUCKHORN
VINEYARDS



2011 Napa Valley Merlot

Our Napa Valley Merlot is a complex blend of several individual vineyard lots, incorporating fruit from our Estate Vineyards and from top independent growers throughout the Napa Valley. The final wine is a rich and cohesive expression of the entire Napa Valley, reflecting the varied microclimates and soils of this unique appellation.

2011 Harvest Notes

In one of the coolest growing seasons in memory, we benefited greatly in 2011 from our 35 years of experience farming Bordeaux varietals. To counteract uneven vine growth due to unusual spring weather, we did meticulous green thinning. We also gently opened up the canopy to expose the fruit, were judicious in our picking schedule, and sorted meticulously both in the vineyards and winery. The majority of our Merlot came in before the October rains, and due to our quality adjustments the remainder of our fruit fared well until it was harvested. Warm up-valley locations like Oakville, Rutherford, St. Helena and Calistoga were particularly successful, and overall the resulting wines are pure and elegant.

Comments from the Winemaker

The cooler 2011 vintage yielded an aromatic Merlot with vibrant red fruit layers of Rainier cherry and spiced plum, as well as notes of licorice, tobacco leaf, cardamom and thyme. Hints of cedar, leather and savory spice from aging in French oak barrels contribute depth and nuance, while a streak of uplifting acidity adds dimension to this wine's smooth velvety texture. Dusty tannins frame a sophisticated finish.

Varietal Content

83% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon,
2.5% Petit Verdot, 2.5% Malbec,
2% Cabernet Franc

Harvest Information

Appellation: Napa Valley
Harvest Dates: September 22 — October 31, 2011
Average Sugar at Harvest: 25.0° Brix

Cooperage

100% French Oak Château-style Barrels (60 Gallons)
Barrel Aging: 15 Months
Age of Barrels: 25% new, 75% second vintage

Production/Technical Data

Alcohol: 14.5%
0.59 g/100 ml titratable acidity
10-12 days fermentation at 80°F
pH: 3.59

Bottled: May 2013
Release Date: October 2013

Duckhorn Vineyards
1000 Lodi Lane, St. Helena, CA 94574
Duckhorn.com

DUCKHORN WINE COMPANY