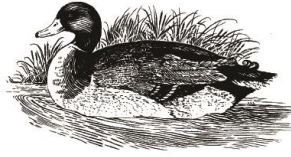


## DUCKHORN VINEYARDS



## NAPA VALLEY

### **2006 Estate Grown Napa Valley Merlot** *Rector Creek Vineyard*

#### **2006 Harvest Notes**

The 2006 growing season was marked by a very mild summer with a mid-July heat spike that accelerated ripening. Mild temperatures continued throughout the fall allowing for a moderately paced harvest. The long growing season brought complex and intense flavor and aroma development.

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

As one of the coolest vineyards in our Estate program, Rector Creek benefits from a slightly longer growing season. The climate and the site's rocky alluvial soils combine to produce Merlot known for its underlying blueberry and floral elements, velvety structure and refined character. These qualities are all on display, alongside red-fruit layers of cherry, red currant and rhubarb, as well as notes of leather, spearmint and spice. The wine is finely textured, with a seamless tannin structure that leads to a satisfying bitter chocolate finish.

#### **Varietal Content**

100% Merlot

#### **Harvest Information**

Appellation: Napa Valley - Yountville

Harvest Dates: September 8 – October 31, 2006

Average Sugar at Harvest: 26.3° Brix

1 Estate Vineyard - Rector Creek Vineyard

#### **Cooperage**

100% French Oak, Chateau-Style Barrels (60 gallons)

Barrel Aging: 18 Months

Age of Barrels: 100% New

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

Alcohol: 14.5%

Titrateable Acidity: 0.64 g/100ml

pH: 3.32

Bottled: July 2008

Released: May 2009