



FLORA SPRINGS



2015 MERLOT WINEMAKER NOTES

Our Napa Valley Merlot is a perennial favorite at the winery; in fact, it was known to be Flora Komes' "go to" wine as she loved its bright fruit flavors and smooth, supple texture. The 2015 vintage falls in line with this profile, its continuity drawing from our sustainably-farmed estate vineyards in St. Helena, Rutherford and Oakville. Opening with vibrant aromas of Bing cherry, pomegranate seed and fresh raspberry, the striking nose of this 100% Merlot also offers hints of espresso bean, cocoa and fresh mint. The palate is bold and sumptuous, centered on the same red fruit flavors and surrounded by notes of cedar, orange pekoe tea and baking spice. This is a readily approachable wine, with soft, harmonious tannins, a touch of well-integrated toasty vanillin oak, and a finish that is warm and lush.

ALL THE FACTS

Appellation:	<i>Napa Valley</i>
Varietal:	<i>100% Merlot</i>
Cases Produced:	<i>4,500</i>
Aging:	<i>19 months in small oak barrels; mixture of new and seasoned.</i>
Suggested Retail Price:	<i>\$30</i>
Enjoyability:	<i>Drink now through 2021 for optimum enjoyment</i>

ON THE VINE

The 2015 vintage in Napa Valley will be remembered for high quality but low yields. The growing season began with warm temperatures in late winter and early spring resulting in an early bud break. In May, colder temperatures during bloom caused fruit set to be uneven, yielding a much smaller crop compared to earlier vintages. Winemakers and vineyard managers worked closely together as the season progressed to ensure grapes ripened uniformly. The harvest, which was in full swing by mid-August, was one of the earliest on record in Napa Valley, and most vintners completed picking by mid-October. Although the continuing drought was a concern around California, Napa Valley received 75% of its annual rainfall average in 2015 making it less worrisome for Napa vintners.