

TWOMEY

2005 NAPA VALLEY TWOMEY MERLOT



APPELLATION Napa Valley

COMPOSITION 96% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc

HARVEST DATE September 19 - October 4, 2005

BOTTLE SIZES 750 ml 1.5 L magnum
3 L double magnum 6 L imperial

VITICULTURE Grapes for Twomey Merlot come exclusively from the Soda Canyon Ranch in southeastern Napa Valley. This vineyard's rolling hills of volcanic soils are tightly planted with French Merlot clones, selected for their low yield of small, intensely flavored berries. In this mild climate, tempered by cool breezes and morning fog, Merlot ripens slowly and develops rich black-fruit character and extraordinary complexity.

NTAGE DESCRIPTION The 2005 growing season began with a rainy spring. This led to a late budbreak and vigorous shoot growth. The weather at bloom was perfect and resulted in a generous crop that matured evenly as the summer progressed. The late summer and fall were moderate, and this further prolonged ripening. Extended time on the vines allowed the grapes to develop deep color and great concentration at relatively low alcohol levels.

BARREL AGING The wine was aged for 16 months in 65% new and 35% once and twice used French oak barrels with thin staves that allow gentle aeration.

SOUTIRAGE TRADITIONAL The wine was racked every three months using *soutirage traditionnel*, a process developed in Bordeaux over centuries of fine winemaking. This is a slow, labor-intensive method of decanting the wine from one barrel to another without the disruptive effect of pumping. This gentle handling preserves the wine's full aromatic intensity while achieving a crystal-clear brilliance and smooth, silky texture.

TASTING NOTES Our 2005 Twomey Merlot is a voluptuous, robust and balanced expression of this noble variety. It has a deep garnet color and an intensely concentrated nose of black cherry, blackberry essence, wild game and freshly ground black pepper. On the palate, it is full-bodied and velvety, with fine-grained tannins and an extremely long finish. This Merlot will continue to give drinking pleasure through 2018.

RELEASE DAY September 1, 2008