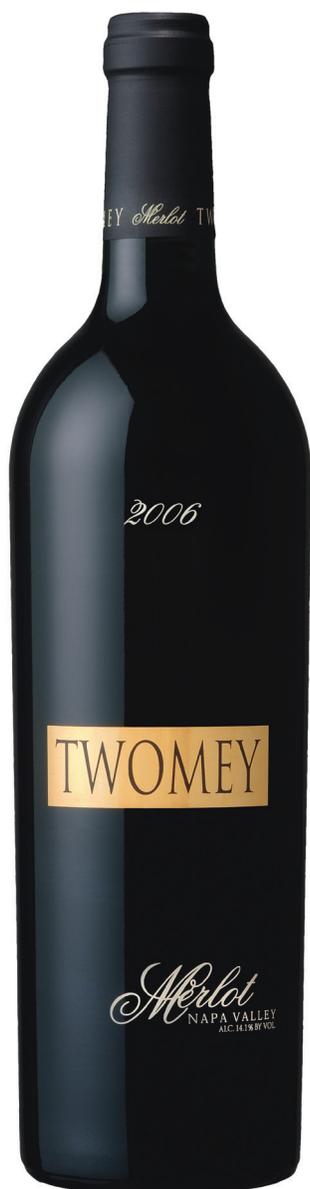


TWOMEY

2006 NAPA VALLEY MERLOT

*“Exceptional
handcrafted wine
from the Family of
Silver Oak Cellars.”*



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Our 2006 Twomey Merlot combines spice and fruit in a classical expression of varietal character. It has a dark ruby color and nose of black cherry, tobacco, dark chocolate and tarragon. On the palate, it is spicy and full-bodied, with a fine-grained tannic structure that crescendos to a long finish of cedar and berry fruit. This Merlot will continue to give drinking pleasure through 2018.

RELEASE DATE: September 1, 2010

VINEYARD

Grapes for our Twomey Merlot come exclusively from our 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 a rich black-fruit character and extraordinary complexity.

VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

The 2006 New Year rang in to the sound of flood waters raging throughout Napa County. Indeed the early season was marked by rains extending well into April. The weather became dry and warm by late spring and bloom conditions were ideal. The early summer will be remembered for a searing 10-day heat wave in July, but August and September were mild, which, coupled with normal yields, led to a slow prolonged ripening.

SOUTIRAGE TRADITIONAL

The wine was raked every three months using soutirage traditional, 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.

BARREL AGING

The wine was aged for 16 months in 45% new and 55% once and twice used French oak barrels with thin staves that allow gentle aeration.

COMPOSITION: 94% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc

HARVEST DATES: September 19 – October 18, 2006

ALCOHOL: 14.1%