



2009 SODA CANYON VINEYARD MERLOT

TWOMEY

TASTING NOTES

Our 2009 Twomey Soda Canyon Vineyard Merlot is a rich wine that displays great depth and concentration. The fruit for this wine is sourced exclusively from our Soda Canyon Vineyard in southeastern Napa Valley. This Merlot has a dark garnet color and heady aromas of black cherry compote, nutmeg, roasting coffee and violets that seem to burst from the glass. It has a bright entry and a soft, velvety, mouth-coating, mid-palate replete with flavors of juicy berries, roasting coffee and a hint of dark chocolate. This full-bodied, complex wine lingers on the palate with a long, harmonious finish. According to our Winemaking Consultant, Jean-Claude Berrouet, "This wine expresses the sensual side of Merlot, beautifully complemented by original, exotic notes thanks to the California sun." With proper cellaring, this beautiful Merlot will continue to give drinking pleasure through 2026.

VINEYARD

Grapes for our Merlot come exclusively from our Soda Canyon Vineyard 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.

NOTES FROM THE VINEYARD

The 2009 vintage was saved by significant rainfall in May that made up for a dry winter. Moderate late season ripening conditions brought the fruit to perfect maturity. Bloom conditions were excellent and the crop was even and of average yield. The summer was mild with a few heat spikes. Foggy mornings in August and September prolonged the ripening period. Harvest began on September 7th and concluded on October 8th. Integrating a new Berry Sensory Assessment protocol, adapted from the French Institut Cooperatif du Vin, into our long-standing philosophy of producing wines of moderate alcohol, we were able to harvest fruit at peak flavor and skin maturity before Typhoon Melor drenched Soda Canyon Vineyard with six inches of rain on October 13th. Our 2009 Soda Canyon Vineyard Merlot displays the ripeness and balance of fruit picked under ideal conditions.

HARVEST DATES: *September 7th - October 8th*

BARRELS: *French oak, 38% new, 25% once-used and 37% older*

BARREL AGING: *13 months*

COMPOSITION: *94% Merlot, 5.6% Cabernet Franc, 0.4% Cabernet Sauvignon*

ALCOHOL: *13.7%*

APPELLATION: *Napa Valley*

RELEASE DATE: *September 14, 2013*

BOTTLE SIZES: *750 ml, 1.5 L magnum, 3 L double magnum, 6 L imperial*

