



# TWOMEY

## 2011 SODA CANYON RANCH MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Our 2011 Soda Canyon Ranch Merlot is a rich, dark, concentrated expression of this noble variety. It has a dark ruby color with red highlights and a robust nose of blackberry confit, cassis, roasted meat and dark chocolate. It has a velvety attack and an extremely long, slightly tannic finish. Given proper cellaring, this wine should give drinking pleasure through 2028.

### NOTES FROM THE VINEYARD

The theme of the 2011 growing season was mild and cool weather with more than normal cloud cover and fog. Budbreak was slightly later than normal and grapevine phenology tracked about 2 weeks late for the entire season. Intermittent spring rain interfered with fruit set to give a low cluster count and lower crops. Temperatures began to rise in August and then there were three heat events in September: one at the beginning, middle and end of the month reaching nearly 100°F. This brought the early-ripening Merlot at our Soda Canyon Ranch to perfect maturity and we harvested from September 21<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. Rains fell from October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> throughout the North Coast. Due to our naturally well-drained volcanic soils, we were able to conclude harvest with the Cabernet Franc on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Merlot provides the rich core of this wine, while the small percentage of Cabernet Franc furnishes a liveliness, vibrancy and acid balance that perfectly complements the Merlot. The soupçon of Petit Verdot brightens the wine and adds musk and intensity.

### HARVEST DATES:

September 21 – October 18, 2011

### BARRELS:

French Oak, 33% new

### BARREL AGING:

13 months

### COMPOSITION:

97% Merlot  
2.8% Cabernet Franc  
0.2% Petit Verdot

### ALCOHOL:

14.5%

### RELEASE DATE:

September 2015

### BOTTLE SIZES:

750 ml, 1.5 L Magnum,  
3 L Double Magnum, 6 L Imperial