



## MERLOT

ESTATE ~ SANTA CLARA VALLEY

2013

### VINEYARDS

THE YEAR BEGAN WITH ANOTHER DRY WINTER AND SPRING, THEN THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER WE EXPERIENCED ABUNDANT SUNSHINE AND EVEN GROWING TEMPERATURES. WHILE NEWS OF THE LACK OF RAIN DOMINATED CONVERSATIONS, THERE WAS AN UPSIDE TO THE DROUGHT; THE GRAPES HAD VERY CONCENTRATED FLAVORS AND HARVEST OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2013.

### WINEMAKING

I'VE BEEN WORKING THE ZAJAC VINEYARD HERE IN THE SAN MARTIN REGION FOR THE PAST 10 VINTAGES. YEAR AFTER YEAR IT PRODUCES VERY SMALL INTENSELY RICH BERRIES. 2013 BEING THE SECOND YEAR OF A DROUGHT, THE FRUIT WAS NOT ONLY SMALL, BUT ALSO ON THE DRY SIDE. NOT RAISIN OR SHRIVELED, JUST SMALL AND DRY. TO HELP EXTRACT JUICE FROM THESE GEMS, 40% OF THE MUST WAS REMOVED AND FOOT STOMPED TO EXTRACT AS MUCH JUICE OUT AS POSSIBLE. IT WAS THEN BROUGHT BACK TO THE REST OF THE MUST AND ALLOWED TO COLD SOAKED FOR 48 HOURS.

BECAUSE OF THE SMALL BERRY SIZE AND RELATIVELY LARGE AMOUNT OF SEEDS, I OPTED TO DO A RACK AND RETURN WHICH IS SIMPLY REMOVING THE FERMENTING JUICE AND SKINS FROM THE FERMENTERS, AND REMOVING THE SEEDS THAT ARE LEFT IN THE BOTTOM, REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF SHORT CHAIN TANNINS THAT MAY BE EXTRACTED LATE IN THE FERMENTATION CYCLE. THE WINE IS THEN ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WITHOUT THE CHANCE OF EXCESS HARSH TANNINS

### TASTING NOTES

THE RESULTING WINE IS THAT OF A "MEATY" MERLOT. THIS IS NOT MILES' MERLOT FROM SIDEWAYS. AGED IN ONCE USED FRENCH OAK BARRELS FOR 25 MONTHS, THE MEDEIROS FAMILY ESTATE MERLOT IS DARK AND INTENSE WITH FIRM RIPE TANNIN. THE NOSE IS A LABYRINTH OF TRUFFLE, MOLASSES, OAK, AND DARK CHERRY. THE PALETTE HAS GOOD WEIGHT AND MOUTHFEEL WITH THE LINGERING TASTE OF JAMMY DARK FRUIT, SPICE, AND COCOA. WILL PAIR WELL WITH BEEF, LAMB, AND WILD GAME.

GET IT WHILE YOU CAN, I SUSPECT THIS WILL GO QUICKLY. FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH CELLARS, THIS IS ONE TO STOCK UP ON. WILL CELLAR WELL.

#### VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

100% MERLOT

#### COOPERAGE:

15 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK BARRELS

#### BRIX @ HARVEST:

25.8\*

SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 2013

#### ANALYSIS:

ALCOHOL 14.9% PH 3.63 TA .58



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