

**DUCKHORN**  
VINEYARDS



**2009 Napa Valley Merlot**

Our Napa Valley Merlot is a complex blend of several individual vineyard lots, incorporating fruit from our Estate Vineyards and from top independent growers throughout the Napa Valley. The final wine is a rich and cohesive expression of the entire Napa Valley, reflecting the varied microclimates and soils of this unique appellation.

**2009 Harvest Notes**

From our first Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc blocks to our final red-varietal Estate picks, our 2009 harvest spanned more than two months. Though the 2009 growing season presented certain challenges—from early shatter to late-season rain—a thoughtful response in the vineyards yielded smaller-than-normal crops of high-quality fruit. This response included aggressive leafing, an early thinning protocol and a heavy field sort to select only the most desirable grapes.

**Comments from the Winemaker**

This wine displays all of the benefits of slow, even ripening during a mild growing season. Though there is fullness and a lush character to this Merlot, there is also restraint and elegance. Promising aromas of cherry, red plum, raspberry, and dried herbs lead to a clean fresh entry with impeccably balanced acidity supporting intense red fruit flavors of cranberry, plum and raspberry. Round, supple tannins provide an enticing framework for the flavors and contribute to a lingering finish.

**Varietal Content**

84% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc

**Harvest Information**

Appellation: Napa Valley

Harvest Dates: September 10 — October 21, 2009

Average Sugar at Harvest: 25.3° Brix

**Cooperage**

100% French Oak Château-style Barrels (60 Gallons)

Barrel Aging: 15 Months

Age of Barrels: 25% new, 75% second vintage

**Production/Technical Data**

Alcohol: 14.5%

0.59 g/100 ml titratable acidity

8-10 days fermentation at 80°F

pH: 3.51

Bottled: April 2011

Release Date: December 2011

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**DUCKHORN WINE COMPANY**