

2007 Red Wine Napa Valley Estate Grown

Somerston Vineyard / Napa Valley

ALCOHOL: 14.9%

TOTAL ACID: 7.4 g/l

pH: 3.75

BRIX AT HARVEST: 37

CASE PRODUCED: 120

VINTAGE RELEASED: **November 2010**



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Winegrowing

After a winter of average rainfall, the 2007 growing season began in earnest in March, with summer-like weather that warmed the vineyard soils. Budbreak, and then bloom, occurred evenly and early, and the crop set was moderate. After some heat in late April, mild, consistent weather through the long summer months promoted steady, even and early ripening. With perfect yields, averaging just over one and one-half tons per acre, the grapes developed superb flavor concentration by mid October, and the Merlot harvest began on October 23rd. Cool, early mornings were followed by hot afternoons, bringing the crop to ideal ripeness across the vineyard. The last bin of fruit was delivered to the winery October 25th. The fruit was sorted by hand, de-stemmed, and fed to small stainless tanks, where it underwent cold-soaking, native yeast fermentations, and extended macerations. The wine was aged in 100% new French oak barrels for 26 months and bottled in early 2010.

Tasting Notes

This Pomerol inspired Bordeaux blend expresses the vibrancy and power of our Somerston Vineyard Merlot fruit, blended with 2.5% estate Cabernet Franc. This wine is serious and compelling with opulent fruit and seamless tannins. It exhibits a rich bouquet of warm huckleberries and dried blueberries, spiced with cinnamon, espresso and dried bay leaf.

Winemaker / Craig Becker notes: This Merlot blend is a mouth-filling wine of deep color and smooth, sweet tannins. Its intense berry flavors and intriguing mineral notes provide density and complexity. It is ready to drink now, but will easily age for years.

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