

FARELLA-PARK

V I N E Y A R D S



2004 MERLOT

Estate Bottled

Unfined - Unfiltered

More and more, we are being approached for Merlot grapes from our sub-region in the Napa Valley as winemakers recognize the special balance of climate and soil that is so well suited for Merlot. Look for the future appellation of "Coombsville District" to be synonymous with Merlot. We keep about 10% of our Merlot grapes, the larger portion going to Pahlmeyer and Luna wineries.

Stylistically, our Merlots are made with a tendency for softness and elegance, wines with deep allure to go with most savory dishes. We try to avoid heavy flavors, hard tannin and high alcohol which can be overwhelming with food. A soft hand during fermentation and ageing allows us to bottle our Merlot without fining and filtration.

Our 2004 Merlot is a blend of two separate blocks within our vineyard and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon which broadens the structure of the wine and adds a touch of spice. This is a vintage where Merlot shows its strength as a full, red varietal with a pleasing softness. Time in the bottle will enhance the more succulent characteristics and intensify the classic claret "cigar box" spice.

Wine Details:

- Merlot 90% and Cabernet Sauvignon 10% from our estate vineyard in the southeastern corner of Napa Valley known locally as "Coombsville."
- Cases produced: 225
- Aged 28 months in French oak barrels from the Nevers region, 40% new. Bottled unfined and unfiltered.

3.82 pH 0.55 TA 14.4% Alc. Release: November 2008

Winemaker's Notes: Medium-full bodied with soft, elegant tannins, excellent structure for ageing and a long, supple finish. Aromas and flavors of plum/cassis fruit with cedar, smoke and spice. Approachable now but will age very well and gain complexity for many years to come.

*Double-Golf Medal, San Francisco International Wine Competition
Bronze Medal, Dallas Morning News Wine Competition*