

MERRYVALE

VINEYARDS

2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Saint Helena



Winemaking

Merryvale's St. Helena Estate Vineyard lies on an eastern ridge overlooking the Napa Valley at almost one thousand feet of elevation. Planted in 1997, this vineyard consistently delivers grapes that stand out for their plush fruit character, complexity and silky tannins. The handpicked grapes were allowed to cold soak after arrival at the winery, allowing a long and gentle extraction to take place. Each lot was fermented separately in small tanks. Native fermentation began after a 7-day cold soak and reached a peak temperature of 90°F. The wines were pumped over a few times a day until dryness and then pressed and drained to barrels where malolactic fermentation occurred. We aged the wine for 22 months in 70% new French oak barrels from Taransaud, Darnajou, Sylvain. The wine was racked three times and bottled without fining or filtration.

Vintage

With the South Napa earthquake and ongoing drought making it a unique agricultural landscape, vintners are using words like “quality”, “depth of flavor” and “excellent” to describe expectations for the 2014 vintage in Napa Valley. The weather was generally perfect at the right times, leading to an abundant and strong crop. Harvest started and ended earlier than usual. The first grapes were picked on July 30th and nearly all harvest activity was completed by the third week of October, a full two weeks ahead of normal harvest schedule for most wineries.

Tasting Notes

Coming from the loamier part of our estate vineyard, this wine reflects the intensity and dark character that we get from this incredible site. With grapes selected from younger vines and the south facing block of this vineyard, our Saint Helena Cabernet is an example of a powerful style of wine that is also elegant and enjoyable in its youth. The lengthy finish showcases well proportioned and refined tannins that will gain even more complexity as time passes. With proper cellaring, this wine will drink beautifully for the next 15 to 20 years.

Appellation:	Napa Valley
Blend:	80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Petit Verdot
Vineyards:	Schlatter Family Estate Vineyard
Cooperage:	70% new French oak barrels for 22 months
Alc:	14.9%
PH:	3.84
TA:	5.9 g/L

EST. 1983

