



2005 Estate Merlot, Stags Leap District, Napa Valley

Steltzner Vineyards & Stags Leap District

Stags Leap District is a unique place to farm grapes. Often called a valley within the Napa Valley, the Stags Leap District is influenced by cool evening breezes from the San Pablo bay and rocky volcanic soils. Combined with our eastern exposure this is an ideal place for growing grapes. Our family has been farming this land since 1965.

Vineyards

This wine is a blend of our three blocks of Merlot located in our estate vineyard in the Stags Leap District of the Napa Valley. We have blended a little bit of our Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc for added complexity. This wine can be enjoyed now and will gain added complexity with cellar aging from 3 to 10 years.

Winemaker Notes:

Color: Rich, deep red and garnet.

Nose: Hints of violets compliment the deep fruit aromas of blueberries and blackberries. There is a nice smoky barrel character with notes of cream and baking spice.

Mouth: Smooth, rich, mouth filling Merlot that is well balanced across the whole palate. There are soft well integrated tannins that provide structure and a nice lingering finish. The wine shows nice ripe fruit flavors of Cherries, Blueberries and Blackberries. There are French oak barrel notes of smoke mixed with vanilla and spices.

Technical Data

Release Date ∞ February 2008

Harvest Date ∞ Sept. 26 – Oct 1st

Brix at Harvest: 25.8 brix average

Wine Data

TA : .55

PH.: 3.52

Alcohol: 14.76%

Fermentation: 10-15 days average

Barrel Ageing: 24 months

Mixed French Oak

Blend:

98% Merlot

2% Petit Verdot