



2012 Napa Valley Merlot

Wine Philosophy: Highlands' wines confirm that quality wine making starts in the vineyard. Every vintage presents unique opportunities to explore and express the best the fruit and terroir has to offer. To maximize vintage opportunities, Highlands focuses on small lot production using inspired and uncompromising winemaking techniques. Bottling wines of intensity and exceptional character demonstrates our commitment to excellence. We at Highlands appreciate your participation in our discriminating enological experience of hand crafted wines.

Food Pairings: This Merlot provides enjoyable pairings with savory foods that benefit from the softer tannic structure of this remarkable Merlot. It also pairs well in the role of a Merlot, with hard cheeses and grilled meats.

Vintage Notes: The 2012 vintage was a relief from the previous vintages by providing a classic, traditional California vineyard experience from bud break to harvest. Spring bud break was right on time without any adverse hail or frost, and flowed into stable flowering and uniform fruit set. The summer months were treated with consistent warm, but not hot, days and frequented by the desirable cool foggy nights. There was no early heavy rain to darken the experience but the grapes did feel some late light rain. This was fortunately followed by a stretch of drying warm days allowing for vineyards to ripen completely, finding their way to the crush pad in outstanding condition before the rains hit. The stage has been set to deliver some excellent wines.

Winemaker Notes: This Merlot captures the eye with a ruby red color, and the nose with an even palate of red berries, black berries and stone fruit. The transition into the mouth is pleasant and rewarding with lingering warmth of soft tannins in the finish.

Cellaring: Hold in the cellar for a few years or bring the rich fruit flavor to the table today with ample time for opening the bottle to breathe.

Technical Data:

Fermentation	Half Ton Macro Bin
Aging	22 months in 33% new French Oak Barrels
Blend	100% Merlot
Appellation	100% Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley
Production	69 cases
Alc	14.5 %
pH	3.4
TA	6.4 g/L

Highlands Wines, Napa, California
Tel: 707 603-2096 Fax 707 603-2098