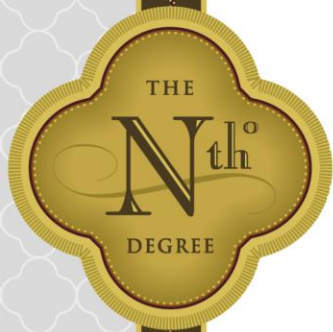


# 2012 The N<sup>th</sup> Degree MERLOT



<b>APPELLATION</b>	Livermore Valley, San Francisco Bay
<b>VARIETAL CONTENT</b>	94% Merlot, 2% Petite Sirah, 2% Malbec, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon
<b>WINEMAKER</b>	Karl D. Wente
<b>ALCOHOL</b>	14.1%
<b>PH</b>	3.54
<b>TOTAL ACID</b>	0.60g/100mL
<b>RELEASE DATE</b>	September 2014
<b>BARRELS PRODUCED</b>	24

**VINEYARD** Prime Wente estate vineyards from Livermore Valley and Arroyo Seco, Monterey are selected for The N<sup>th</sup> Degree program because of their consistent production of exceptional fruit. These elite vineyards receive the utmost care and attention. They are “ultra-farmed”; every vine receives at least fifteen passes by hand, whereby leaves, shoots and clusters are removed to ensure the grape clusters remaining at the time of harvest are of the highest quality. The water is managed so that the vines are perfectly balanced with the correct amount of growth to fully ripen the berries for the optimal level of flavor. The grapes are then hand harvested in the early morning into half ton bins and hand sorted and crushed into small stainless steel fermenters.

**WINEMAKING** Fermentation took place in small stainless steel tanks where the must was gently pumped over twice daily.

**AGING** The wine was aged for 20 months in French, Eastern European, American, and neutral oak barrels.

**DESCRIPTION** Showing a vibrant red color, this Merlot has rich aromas and flavors of black cherry, plum and toasted oak with luscious tannins and a long berry and mocha finish.

**HISTORY** Founded in 1883, Wente Vineyards is the country's oldest continuously operated family-owned winery. Owned and managed today by the fourth and fifth generations of the Wente family, the winery draws from nearly 3,000 acres of estate vineyards in the Livermore Valley, San Francisco Bay, and Arroyo Seco, Monterey winegrowing regions to make an outstanding portfolio of wines.

