



ESTD  1883

WENTE
VINEYARDS

Sandstone

ESTATE GROWN
MERLOT
LIVERMORE VALLEY · SAN FRANCISCO BAY
2013

“Our Sandstone Merlot is a great display of Bordeaux grapes from hillside and valley floor vineyards, each of which gives distinct aromatics and structure to the wine. The estate grown and certified sustainable vineyards that make up this wine are harvested, fermented and aged separately in barrel for about a year before they are blended together. We add Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah and Petite Verdot to the blend which then ages for another 6-12 months. Although lighter in structure than a Cabernet Sauvignon, this Merlot combines solid, yet silky tannins with diverse fruit flavors to make a lasting impression.”

- Karl D. Wente, Fifth Generation Winemaker

VINEYARD

Since 1883, five generations of our family have handcrafted fine wines that express the very best of our vineyards and winemaking expertise. Our Estate Grown Sandstone Merlot comes from a gently sloping formation of hills running along the southeastern corner of the historic Livermore Valley. With warm days, cool nights, well-drained sandstone soils, and incoming breezes from the San Francisco Bay, the Wente family’s hillside vineyard is an ideal place to grow outstanding Merlot and Bordeaux varieties.

WINEMAKING

FERMENTATION Each varietal was harvested and fermented separately in upright stainless steel fermenters. Rack and return, which is process of draining all of the free-run juice off the cap and then returning back over the top of the fermenter, was performed twice daily. This method increases the color and tannin extractions and improves mouthfeel through the integration of oxygen.

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

TASTING NOTES

This Merlot exhibits beautiful aromas and flavors of strawberry, cherry, blackberry and fig with hints of toast, brown sugar, and spice. A smooth mouthfeel, bright acidity and inviting tannins lead to a long, luscious finish.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION
80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet
Sauvignon, 5% Petite Sirah,
5% Petit Verdot

ALCOHOL 13.5%
pH 3.60
TA 0.57g/100ml

HARVEST DATE(S) 10/1-10/20
BRIX AT HARVEST 24.1

FAMILY OWNED. ESTATE GROWN. CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE.
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