MERLOT 2004

Appellation: 97% Livermore Valley, San Francisco Bay
3% Arroyo Seco, Monterey

Varietal Content: 77% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon 2% Barbera

Winemaker: Karl D. Wente
Alcohol: 13.5%
pH: 3.48
Total Acid: 0.60 g/100ml
Residual Sugar: Dry

Origin: Crane Ridge is the gently sloping formation of hills running along the southeastern corner of the famous Livermore Valley. The Wente family's hillside Merlot vineyards deliver fully ripened fruit with exceptional depth of character.

Fermentation: This blend was fermented in upright stainless steel fermenters. The fermentation temperatures exceeded 90°F to maximize color and tannin extraction.

Aging: All parts of this blend were aged for at least 12 months in French and American oak barrels.

Description: With a smooth feel and tangy, balanced tannins, this vintage of Crane Ridge Merlot offers undertones of blackberry and vanilla complemented by a smoky finish from the oak aging. Crane Ridge is an excellent example of Merlot - it shows off the best of the varietal's characteristics, with additional richness from the Cabernet Sauvignon component of the blend.

History: Founded more than 120 years ago, 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.