



ESTATE  GROWN

Sandstone

M E R L O T

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Appellation: Livermore Valley, San Francisco Bay
Winemaker: Karl D. Wente
Alcohol: 13.5%

Origin: The grapes for our Sandstone Merlot come 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.

Fermentation: Each vineyard was harvested and fermented separately in upright stainless steel fermenters. Rack and return, which is the process of draining all of the free-run juice off the cap and then returning the free-run juice 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: This wine was aged for 16 months in American, French, Eastern European, and neutral oak.

Description: Our 2010 Sandstone Merlot exhibits aromas and flavors of black cherry, blackberry and plum with hints of toasted oak. A smooth mouthfeel and inviting tannins lead to a long, fruity finish.



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