

VARIETAL COLLECTION

*Merlot*

2013

Vintage:	Fourth
Composition:	86% Merlot, 9% Carménère, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon , 1% Cabernet Franc
Clone:	ME clone 181, CA clone 02, CS clone 169, CF clone 214
Appellation:	Napa Valley, Coombsville District
Vineyard:	Caldwell Vineyard Estate, established 1981
Block:	17, 18
Yield:	3.0 tons per acre
Average Vine Age:	16 years
Grape varieties:	ME, CA, CS, CF
Rootstock:	3309, 101-14

Vintage Summary: The 2013 growing season started like the 2012, with an early bud break. As in the previous year, Ideal conditions during bloom allowed for an almost perfect set. Outside of a heat spike in late June, the temperate conditions continued through veraison in July and August. As with 2012 there were very uniform clusters but the canopies were more balanced in 2013. The harvest season started off early, with ideal moderate temperature that shrugged off two brief September rains. The wonderful set and more balanced canopy gave a more “normal” yield during harvest. The berry sizes were smaller and clusters were average. With the ability to pick when we wanted, the resulting phenological ripeness produced excellent quality grapes.

Harvest Date:	October 12, 15, 18 & 19, 2013
Fermentation:	100% New French Oak Barrel
Yeast:	Caldwell Native Yeast
ML:	Natural
Wood Origin:	Center of France
Ageing:	French Oak
New Oak Barrels:	100%
Fining:	None
Filtering:	Filtered
Alcohol:	15.2%
Bottled on:	March 30, 2015

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: Throw everything you think you know about Merlot out the window, then taste this. Exceptionally round, thick, dense and structured, it's unusually complex and multidimensional for a variety that's often spoken about in opposite terms. Sun ripened plum, pomegranate, raspberry, mocha and white pepper define its flavors, while the refined, medium tannins and a savory black olive component defines its complexity.

Cellaring:	1 – 5 years
Production:	91 cases
Price:	\$65 / 750ml

