



O'BRIEN FAMILY VINEYARD

2003 *Estate Merlot*

Tasting Notes:

“O” Merlot is handcrafted from grapes grown in our vineyard in the Oak Knoll district of Napa Valley. A beautiful deep ruby color is the first indication of the depth of the wine. The aroma/flavors include blackberry, plum, and cherry liqueur with hints of leather and herb (as a positive for complexity), follow through with shadings of coffee and bakers chocolate finishing with sweet toasty oak.

The flavors layer nicely slowly revealing all of the subtleties.

This vintage of our estate Merlot can be enjoyed immediately for it's freshness and intensity, but will only improve with further bottle age through at least 2015.

Facts:

- Vineyards: Our estate vineyard is located in the *Oak Knoll District* of southern Napa Valley. Soils are of the *Hare* clay loam type underlaid with gravel, and are shallow (24”) and low in vigor.
- The Vintage: Harvest came on September 24 at 25.8 Brix.
- Winemaker: David Yorgensen, our winemaker, worked with renowned winemaking consultant Philippe Melka at Seavey Vineyard.
- Winemaking: All fruit was hand harvested and gently pressed to yield a juice that needed no further adjustment.
- Cooperage and Aging: Approximately 70% new French Oak and 30% 1 year old French oak was used. The wine was aged for 20 months in barrel.
- Final Analysis:
 - Titratable acidity: 0.61 g/100mL
 - pH: 3.43
 - Alcohol 14.8%
 - 591 cases bottled
 - 24 (1.5L) bottles (4 cases)

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