



O'BRIEN ESTATE

NAPA VALLEY

2005 *Estate Merlot*

Tasting Notes:

Our Merlot is handcrafted from grapes grown in our vineyard in the Oak Knoll district of Napa Valley. Deep and dark ruby/plum in color, the 2005 Merlot is big, dark and intense with mouth filling fruit of blackberry, black cherry and cassis. Aromatics of sweet cherry liqueur, caramel, toffee, coffee, and forest floor that lead to a profile of cedar, earth, black cherry and crème de cassis that is both exotic and elegant. The abundant fine grained tannins and youthful acids provide ample structure to this wine.

This vintage of our estate Merlot can be enjoyed immediately but we recommend it be bottle aged for at least 2 years and up to 10 for maximum enjoyment.

Facts:

- Vineyards: Our estate vineyard is located in the *Oak Knoll District* of southern Napa Valley. Soils are of the *Hare* clay loam type overlaid 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: 0.66 g/100mL
 - pH: 3.49
 - Alcohol 14.8%
 - 918 cases bottled

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