



MONTICELLO VINEYARDS
CORLEY FAMILY NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE 2003
MONTICELLO VINEYARDS

Estate Grown Merlot

Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District

Small winery; Big reputation. The CORLEY FAMILY grows and produces 15,000 cases of exclusively Napa Valley wines designated as MONTICELLO VINEYARDS, CORLEY RESERVE and our CORLEY Proprietary Red Wine. We grow Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah on five small vineyard sites in the Oak Knoll, Yountville, Rutherford and St. Helena appellations of Napa Valley.

Tasting Notes

Our Vintage 2003 Estate Grown Merlot shows aromatics of black cherry, olive and notes of vanilla. The flavors follow with plum, cherries, and a subtle note of black licorice. The wine is extremely well-balanced from attack through to the long and smooth finish. The medium tannins and low-to-medium acids are extremely well integrated just barely expressing themselves through the general silky texture. A splash of Cabernet Franc adds spicy overtones while a bit more Cabernet Sauvignon adds some heft to the finish.

Vineyards, Vintage and Vinification

Home Ranch Vineyard and Knollwood Vineyard - Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District

Our Merlot vineyards are planted to Clones #181 and #314 on #3309 and #420A rootstock. The grapes are lush and power packed with intense berry flavors and an abundance of bright fruit.

Our Cabernet Franc vineyards are planted to Clones #332, #312 and Clone X. Our Cabernet Franc is extremely aromatic and has an excellent backbone of structural tannins.

Our Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards in Yountville, Rutherford and St Helena are planted to Clones #7, #8, #337 and the 'Cope' Clone.

Harvest Dates September 16 - 30, 2003

Vintage Vintage 2003 is one that will be remembered for producing a vintage with high quality and an intensity of flavors. A long cool summer allowed the fruit flavors to evolve beautifully ahead of the sugar accumulation. Heat spikes in September helped move the harvest forward after many felt it would be a late year.

Barrel Aging 18 Months French Oak, racked gently three times

Alcohol 14.1%