



Robert Keenan Winery

2002 Merlot, Napa Valley

Keenan Winery is located in Spring Mountain District, high in the Mayacamas mountain range above the town of Saint Helena. Seventeen acres of Merlot vines were planted in the gravelly soils surrounding the winery, and it is these vines that produce some of the finest Merlot in Napa. The vineyards are situated above the dense layer of fog that creeps up the Napa Valley most evenings. Consequently the vines warm up earlier in the morning and stay warm through the night. The combination of warm temperatures, steep hillside vine rows and gravelly soils promotes more stress on the vines leading to increased intensity in the finished wine.

The 2002 Keenan Merlot is composed of seventy percent Keenan Estate Merlot. The remainder of this wine is made up of Merlot fruit harvested from the Napa Carneros region. In addition, three percent Estate Cabernet Franc has been added to the blend in order to add additional complexity. After hand harvesting, the grapes were de-stemmed and inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation ranged from ten to fourteen days before pressing.

The '02 Merlot has been aged in thirty-three percent new French and American oak barrels for nineteen months. The resulting wine shows ripe plum, blackberry, cocoa and spice aromas that are enhanced by a toasty oak background. Consumers can expect this Merlot to open up to a rich, velvety, full-bodied wine.

Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s The Wine Advocate

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92 Points "The 2002 Merlot exhibits a dark ruby/purple color along with a big, sweet nose of mocha-infused black cherries and currants intermixed with a hint of espresso roast. Deep, rich, chewy, and medium to full-bodied with outstanding balance, this is a beauty to drink over the next 10-12 years."

Wine Data:

Alcohol:	14.3%
Total Acidity:	0.56 grams/100 mL
pH:	3.59
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 3, 2004
Production:	3220 Cases
Blend:	97% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc
.	70% Estate Merlot
.	27% Merlot Napa Carneros
.	3% Estate Cabernet Franc