



Robert Keenan Winery

2002 Napa Valley Mernet Reserve

The spring and summer of '02 provided a nice warm growing season for Keenan's vineyards. Then, late September and early October presented some abnormally warm temperatures which in turn quickly brought Keenan's Cabernet and Merlot to full maturity. The grapes were hand harvested then de-stemmed and inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation was carried out in stainless steel tanks and ranged from twelve to fourteen days. Wines were aged in American and French oak barrels for eighteen months before bottling.

Blending trials for the 2002 Mernet, began in March of 2004, with separate lots of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The favored Cabernet Sauvignon was produced from Keenan's newly replanted "K" vineyard, and makes up fifty percent of the blend. The remaining fifty percent of the 2002 Mernet is made up of Merlot grown in the Napa Carneros region.

This marriage of varietals is deemed "Mernet" (Mare-nay) by winery president, Michael Keenan. The name stems from the components of the blend - Mer(lot) and (Caber)net, with each of the wines supplying what the other may have lacked.

The finished wine is a beautifully balanced, full-bodied wine that will radiate impressive flavors and aromas for many years to come.

Robert M. Parker Jr.

Wine Advocate

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"The 2002 Mernet Reserve, a proprietary blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Merlot, is the finest wine Keenan has ever made! The wine has considerable complexity and all the elegance and nuances of a grand cru Bordeaux allied with the ripe, concentrated, saturated fruit that Napa and particularly Spring Mountain provides. Gorgeous aromas of creme de cassis, licorice, espresso, and acacia flowers are followed by a profoundly rich wine boasting medium to full body, elegant, sweet tannins, and enough acidity to provide definition and vibrancy. The finish goes on for a good 40-45 seconds. This beauty is a persuasive example of what Keenan has been able to accomplish over the last few years. Drink it over the next 15+ years."

Wine Data:

Alcohol: 14.3%
Total Acidity: 0.56 grams/100 ml
pH: 3.62
Bottling Date: August 16, 2004
Production: 285cases
Blend: 50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon