



Robert Keenan Winery
2004 Napa Valley Mernet Reserve

Keenan's 2004 Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon were harvested relatively early, and yields were very light. The 2004 Merlot yields were the lowest we've seen in over a decade. The Merlot harvest began on September 6th and our final lot of Cabernet Sauvignon was picked on September 30th. After each lot was hand harvested, the grapes were de-stemmed and then inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation was carried out in stainless steel tanks and ranged from ten to fourteen days. The wines were aged in American and French oak barrels for eighteen months before bottling.

2004 marks the 6th consecutive vintage of "Mernet" (mare-nay) our proprietary marriage of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Each blend has been half Merlot and half Cabernet Sauvignon, but no two wines have had the same vineyard configuration. This year the Merlot half is 35% Carneros Merlot and 15% Merlot from the Estate Mailbox Vineyard and the Cabernet half is equal parts Clone 337 (a Bordeaux clone) and Clone 7 (a U.C. Davis clone), both from our big "K" vineyard.

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

The resulting wine is a seamless blend of the two varieties with an emphasis on high-toned sweet delicious rich fruit with an almost hidden depth and structure to allow for indefinite aging. Enjoy now or decades from now.

Robert M. Parker Jr.

Wine Advocate

Issue #168 12.26.2006 / **95 Points**

"The profound 2004 Mernet Reserve is a 297-case blend of equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. This stunning offering demonstrates just how far Keenan has come over the last several years with their Bordeaux proprietary blend. A dense ruby/purple color is accompanied by an extraordinary perfume of black fruits, blueberries, licorice, sweet leather, chocolate truffles, and espresso roast. Full-bodied, opulent, and dense, it is already approachable, but should evolve for 15-20 years."

Wine Data:

Alcohol: 14.3%
 Total Acidity: 0.60 grams/100 ml
 pH: 3.61
 Bottling Date: August 28, 2006
 Production: 297 cases
 Blend: 15% MerlotMailbox Vineyard
 35% Merlot Napa Carneros
 25% Cabernet Sauvignon Estate Clone 337
 25% Cabernet Sauvignon Estate Clone 7