

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2007 Merlot, Napa Valley

TASTING NOTES

Keenan Winery is located in Spring Mountain District, high in the Mayacamas mountain range above the town of Saint Helena. Fifteen acres of Merlot vines have been planted in the rocky 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 2007 Keenan Merlot is composed of sixty-nine percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Thirty-one percent of the wine is Merlot fruit harvested from the Napa Carneros region. After hand harvesting, the grapes were de-stemmed, then inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation ranged from eight to eleven days before pressing.

The '07 Merlot has been aged in thirty-three percent new French and American oak barrels for eighteen months. The resulting wine shows intense aromas of black cherry, blackberry, and cassis. Complex nuances of cocoa and coffee bean emerge as the wine opens up. This is a "big" Merlot that will age for many years to come.

REVIEWS

Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s, *The Wine Advocate*, Issue # 186 December 23, 2009

"The seductive, soft, plush 2007 Merlot offers a luscious combination of herb-tinged mocha, chocolate infused black cherry and currant fruit, plum and anise. The complex aromas are followed by a lush, succulent wine with dark fruit flavors showing a hint of spicy oak"

Wine Enthusiast Magazine, October, 2011

92 Points "A delicious Merlot, drily tannic and rich in blackberries, cherries and chocolate.... Great with grilled steak with sauteed mushrooms."

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.3%
Total Acidity:	0.58 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.74
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 14, 2009
Production:	3.334 cases
Blend:	100% Merlot
Vineyard Source:	69% Estate Merlot 31% Napa Carneros