

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

1996 Napa Valley Merlot

TASTING NOTES

The long growing season and steady, high temperatures in September of 1996 helped create Merlot grapes of the highest quality. The grapes for the '96 Keenan Merlot were harvested primarily from the Keenan Estate on Spring Mountain, and the remainder from select vineyards on the floor of the Napa Valley. Keenan carefully chose the valley floor grapes to add complexity, and to soften the powerful Keenan Estate fruit.

The 1996 Merlot has been aged in French oak barrels for 20 months. An ample amount of Cabernet Sauvignon was added to the wine before bottling, and seven months of bottle aging has been allowed before release. The resulting wine shows intense plum and black cherry aromas that are enhanced by a toasty oak background. Consumers can expect the wine to open up to a rich, velvety, full bodied wine that pleases the palate.

REVIEWS

Wine Enthusiast, August 1999

91 Points *"Dark violet red. Ripe fruit aromas. A soft, fruity attack leads a generously fruity midpalate with mild powdery tannins on the finish. Drink now."*

AWARDS & RATINGS

1999 California State Fair 88 points, Silver Medal Wine Enthusiast: Highly Recommended 89 points Beverage Testing Institute 89 points Wine Spectator: Highly Recommended 87 points

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	13.5%
Total Acidity:	0.64 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.48
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	August 4, 1998
Production:	3,250 cases
Blend:	90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon