

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2000 Napa Valley Merlot

TASTING NOTES

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 2000 Keenan Merlot is composed of fifty-nine percent Keenan Estate fruit. Select Merlot vineyards from Mount Veeder, and the Napa Carneros region were chosen to add complexity and to aid in softening the powerful Estate Merlot. After hand harvesting, each vineyard lot was de-stemmed and inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation ranged from seven to twelve days before pressing.

The '00 Merlot has been aged in fifty percent new French and American oak barrels for twenty months. The wine remains one hundred percent Merlot – no other varietals were added to the blend. The resulting wine shows intense plum, black cherry and blackberry aromas that are enhanced by a toasty oak background. Consumers can expect this Merlot to open up to a rich, velvety, full-bodied wine.

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	13.5%
Total Acidity:	0.58 grams/100 mL
pH:	3.47
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	August 21, 2002
Production:	2,340 Cases
Blend:	100% Merlot