

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2001 Napa Valley Mernet Reserve

TASTING NOTES

2001 marks the first vintage in which the proprietary red blend, Mernet, is composed primarily of fruit grown on Keenan's Spring Mountain District Estate. This is also the first time that Cabernet Franc is a component in the blend; previous vintages were composed exclusively of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Blending trials for the 2001 Mernet, began in March of 2003, with separate lots of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. The favored Cabernet Sauvignon was produced from Keenan's newly replanted "K" vineyard, and makes up twenty-five percent of the blend. The Cabernet Franc also makes up twenty-five percent of the blend and was produced from grapes grown in Keenan's "Upper Bowl" vineyard. The remaining fifty percent of the 2001 Mernet is Merlot - half of the Merlot was grown in the estate "Upper Bowl" vineyard and half of the Merlot was grown in the Napa Carneros region. This marriage of varieties 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 others 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.

REVIEWS

Robert M. Parker Jr. Wine Advocate Issue #150 12.23.2003 / 92 Points

"the brilliant 2001 Mernet combines the elegance of Bordeaux with the power and richness of Napa Valley. A saturated ruby/purple color is followed by sumptuous aromas of licorice, black currants, and spice box. Medium to full-bodied, with a delineated, fresh, pure, lively palate, this concentrated, yet surprisingly accessible 2001 should drink well young yet age for 12-15 years. BRAVO!"

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.2%
Total Acidity:	0.60 grams/100 ml
pH:	2.449
Aging Regimen:	60% New French and American oak barrels. 28 months in the barrel
Bottling Date:	August 18, 2003
Production:	282 cases
Blend:	50% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon