

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2003 Reserve Merlot, Mailbox Vineyard Spring Mountain District

TASTING NOTES

Simply put, the 2003 Reserve Merlot is one of the purest expressions of great Merlot that we 100% single vineyard estate Merlot since the much remembered "Mailbox Merlot" of 1997. The Mailbox Vineyard was replanted to Cabernet Sauvignon after the 1997 harvest, and we never imagined we would use the Mailbox Merlot designation again. The grapes that went into this wine were grown in our "Lower Bowl" vineyard. To commemorate the Lower Bowl achieving the status of our favorite Merlot vineyard we installed an old mailbox at its highest point and rechristened it "Mailbox Vineyard". The 2003 Merlot Reserve is a bold, full-bodied wine. Ripe plum and roast coffee bean show gracefully in the nose while hints of toasty oak are exhibited on the finish. Powdery tannins add texture to the palate, yet the wine is round and well balanced. This wine is delicious right now, but has the structure to age for many years to come.

REVIEWS

Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s The Wine Advocate Issue # 162, December 26, 2005

"The brilliant 2003 Merlot Reserve Mailbox Vineyard (100% estate Merlot) exhibits superb fruit, purity, texture, and depth as well as loads of sweet melted licorice interwoven with notions of espresso roast, cherry liqueur, white chocolate, and subtle wood. Medium to full-bodied, pure, and elegant, it will age effortlessly for 10-15 years."

93 Points

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.3%
Total Acidity:	0.58 grams/100 mL
pH:	3.64
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	August 12, 2005
Production:	280 Cases
Blend:	90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet