

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2012 Merlot Reserve, Mailbox Vineyard, Spring Mountain District

TASTING NOTES

The Robert Keenan Winery is located in Spring Mountain District, high in the Mayacamas mountain range above the town of Saint Helena. We planted eleven acres of Merlot vines in the rocky soils surrounding the winery and we believe this mountainside vineyard produces some of the finest Merlot in all of Napa Valley. Sited above the dense layer of fog that creeps up the Napa Valley most evenings, the vineyard warms earlier in the morning and temperatures remain warm throughout the night. The combination of these warm temperatures, steep hillside vine rows, and gravelly soils promotes stress on the vines, leading to increased intensity of flavors and aromas in the finished wine.

2012 marks the 9th consecutive year our Mailbox Vineyard has been selected as the source for the Keenan Reserve Merlot bottling. Situated on steeply terraced rows directly beneath the winery, the three-acre block produces exceptionally rich, deeply flavored fruit. 100% Merlot, the resulting wine offers hints of violets and the Mailbox Vineyard's signature earthy spiciness in the nose. A chocolaty creaminess combines with the rich dark full fruit on the palate, and the finish is beautifully layered, deep, elegant, and extremely long. Truly long-lived, this wine can be enjoyed today or cellared to enjoy decades from now.

Cheers!

Michael Keenan

REVIEWS

Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s, *The Wine Advocate*, Issue #215 December, 2014

94 Points: "This is a relatively limited production cuvée of 400 cases and is always one of Napa's finest Merlots. Beautiful mocha, white chocolate, jammy black cherry and blackcurrant notes as well as forest floor nuances, are all present in this full-bodied opulent, terrific example of Merlot. This is Merlot at its most complex and this is certainly one of the top examples of this varietal in Northern California. Moreover, despite its accessibility, this wine should drink well for 15 or more years."

Wine & Spirits Magazine October 2015

93 Points

"A red-fruited merlot, this has some blackness to the tannins that place it firmly in the Napa Valley hills. There's a rocky sense to those tannins, along with hints of black olive and scents of conifer forests, coming together in a lasting, mineral-tinged flavor. The fruit is cool and full, integrating into the oak to create a luscious merlot that needs plenty of time in a decanter to show best."

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.6%
Total Acidity:	0.59 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.63
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 10, 2014
Production:	400 cases
Blend:	100% Merlot
Vineyard Source:	100% Estate Merlot, Mailbox Vineyard