

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2012 Merlot, Napa Valley

TASTING NOTES

Keenan Winery is located in Spring Mountain District, high in the Mayacamas mountain range above the town of Saint Helena. Eleven acres of Merlot vines have been planted in the rocky 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 2012 Keenan Merlot is composed of seventy two percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Twenty eight percent of the wine is Merlot fruit harvested from the Napa Carneros region. After hand harvesting, the grapes were de-stemmed, then inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation ranged from ten to fourteen days.

The '12 Merlot has been aged in thirty-three percent new French and American oak barrels for eighteen months. The resulting wine shows intense aromas of black cherry, blackberry, and cassis. Complex nuances of cocoa and coffee bean emerge as the wine opens up. This is a "big" Merlot that will age for many years to come.

REVIEWS

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

"The 2012 Merlot Napa is solid, chunky, well-made Merlot, with a whiff of background oak, some mocha and black cherry fruit and a good finish."

Wine & Spirits Magazine June 2015

91 Points

"Good merlot can often seem workmanlike, this one satisfied to hit fragrant notes of ripe cherries with clarity. It's not pushed, and though there's plenty of oak present in the tannins, it frames the fruit well."

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.5%
Total Acidity:	0.61 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.61
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 10, 2014
Production:	2,770 cases
Blend:	100% Merlot
Vineyard Source:	72% Estate Merlot, 28% Napa Carneros