



## *Robert Keenan Winery*

### **2001 Napa Valley Merlot, Carneros**

**K**eenan has contracted Merlot grapes from the Napa Carneros district for many years. The "Carneros" is the region of Napa closest to the San Pablo Bay and is known for producing high quality Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Merlot. Merlot grown in the Carneros tends to be very fruity and soft with distinctive spicy nuances.

In 1989 Keenan began purchasing Merlot from the Carneros to blend with the estate Merlot grown on Spring Mountain. The two wines are a great match; the Carneros Merlot softens the dense, powerful wines produced from the estate grown fruit. But, in 1999 we were so happy with how the Carneros Merlot was tasting, we decided to bottle a small amount on its own. We have made this a tradition; 2001 marks our third vintage of single vineyard Carneros Merlot.

The 2001 Carneros Merlot shows raspberry and ripe plum aromas, yet coffee and cinnamon nuances become more pronounced as the wine opens up. Mouth-filling flavors and well-balanced structure allow it to show wonderfully with a variety of well seasoned dishes.

#### **Reviews:**

**2003 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition: Silver Medal**

#### **Wine Data:**

Alcohol: . . . . . 14.3%  
Total Acidity: . . . . . 0.62 grams/100 mL  
pH: . . . . . 3.36  
Residual Sugar: . . . . . Dry  
Bottling Date: . . . . . August 18, 2003  
Production: . . . . . 485 Cases  
Blend: . . . . . 100% Merlot