



Robert Keenan Winery

2003 Napa Valley Mernet Reserve

Keenan's 2003 Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon were harvested in late September and early October. The grapes were hand picked then de-stemmed and inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation was carried out in stainless steel tanks and ranged from twelve to fourteen days. The wines were aged in American and French oak barrels for eighteen months before bottling.

2003 marks the fifth consecutive vintage for "Mernet" and the first to be made exclusively from Keenan's Spring Mountain District Estate. Blending trials for the 2003 Mernet began in March of 2005, with separate lots of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The Cabernet chosen for this blend is Keenan's Cabernet Sauvignon Clone 15, and makes up fifty percent of the blend. The second half of the 2003 Mernet is made up of Merlot grown in Keenan's "Mailbox Vineyard".

This marriage of varietals is deemed "Mernet" (Mare-nay) by winery president, Michael Keenan. The name stems from the two components of the blend - Mer(lot) and (Caber)net, with each of the wines supplying what the other may have lacked.

The resulting wine simultaneously expresses the elegance and profound purity of the '03 "Mailbox Merlot" and the power, richness, and depth of our estate Cabernet Sauvignon Clone 15. Enjoy now or decades from now.

Robert M. Parker Jr.

Wine Advocate

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"A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Merlot, the fruity 2003 Mernet Reserve offers hints of white flowers, blueberries, licorice, cassis, espresso, and truffles. Displaying beautiful fruit on the attack, medium to full body, deep penetration as well as surprising finesse and balance, this is a superb example of high elevation Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink it over the next 12-15 plus years."

Wine Data:

Alcohol:	14.3%
Total Acidity:	0.58 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.60
Bottling Date:	August 123, 2005
Production:	290 cases
Blend:	50% MerlotMailbox Vineyard, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon 100% Keenan Estate, Spring Mountain District