



Robert Keenan Winery

2004 Merlot, Napa Valley

Keenan Winery is located in Spring Mountain District, high in the Mayacamas mountain range above the town of Saint Helena. Fifteen 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 2004 Keenan Merlot is composed of sixty-five percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Thirty-two percent of the wine is Merlot fruit harvested from the Napa Carneros region. In addition, three percent Estate Cabernet Franc has been added to the blend in order to add further complexity and structure. After hand harvesting, the grapes were de-stemmed, then inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation ranged from eight to twelve days before pressing.

The '04 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.

Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s The Wine Advocate

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90 Points "The 2004 Merlot (which includes 3% Cabernet Franc) is a dense, rich, concentrated effort boasting a dark ruby/purple color along with plenty of black cherry and currant fruit intermixed with espresso roast and earth notes. Its moderate tannin is sweet and well-integrated. Drink it over the next decade."

Wine Data:

Alcohol:	14.3%
Total Acidity:	0.58 grams/100 mL
pH:	3.59
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 27, 2006
Production:	2,020 Cases
Blend:	97% Merlot, 3% Cab Franc
Vineyard Sources:	65% Estate Merlot
.	32% Merlot Napa Carneros
.	3% Estate Cabernet Sauvignon