



Robert Keenan Winery

2005 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 2005 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. After hand harvesting, the grapes were de-stemmed, then inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation ranged from eight to twelve days before pressing.

The '05 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

Issue # 174, December 28, 2007

“The elegant 2005 Merlot reveals a sweet berry-scented nose with notions of roasted herbs... This medium-bodied, well-balanced, silky Merlot should be consumed over the next 5-8 years”

Wine Data:

Alcohol:	14.3%
Total Acidity:	0.58 grams/100 mL
pH:	3.61
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 11, 2007
Production:	2,800 Cases
Blend:	100% Merlot
Vineyard Sources	68% Estate Merlot
.	32% Merlot Napa Carneros