

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2006 Merlot, Napa Valley 30th Anniversary

TASTING NOTES

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 2006 Keenan Merlot is composed of seventy-three percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Twenty-four percent of the wine is Merlot fruit harvested from the Napa Carneros region. A small amount (three percent) of the Keenan Estate Cabernet Franc was also included in the final blend. After hand harvesting, the grapes were de-stemmed, then inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation ranged from eight to eleven days before pressing.

The '06 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 # 180 December 31, 2008

"It exhibits attractive earthy, mocha, chocolate and black cherry characteristics along with medium body, good fruit purity and a solid style. Drink it over the next decade."

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.3%
Total Acidity:	0.56 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.68
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 24, 2008
Production:	4,070 cases
Blend:	97% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc