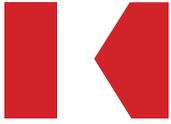


Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2008 Merlot, Napa Valley

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 2008 Keenan Merlot is composed of eighty percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Twenty 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 ten to twelve days before pressing.

The '08 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 # 192 December 23, 2010

"The 2008 Merlot, which is 80% estate Merlot blended with 20% Merlot from Carneros, possesses a dense ruby/purple color as well as attractive aromas of cocoa, coffee, licorice and spice... it is ideal for drinking over the next 5-10 years"

Wine Enthusiast Magazine, October, 2012

91 Points "Merlot hardly gets richer than this. Just explodes in the mouth with flavors of black cherry, blackberry and chocolate truffle flavors. As sweet as it seems, it's actually dry, with a wonderful edge of acidity."

2012 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition: DOUBLE GOLD

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.3%
Total Acidity:	0.57 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.66
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 14, 2010
Production:	2.915 cases
Blend:	100% Merlot
Vineyard Source:	80% Estate Merlot, 20% Napa Carneros