

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2010 Keenan Merlot, Reserve, Mailbox Vineyard, Spring Mountain District

TASTING NOTES

The Mailbox Merlot Reserve is the sole single-vineyard estate wine produced at Keenan Winery consistently since 2003. The definitive spice note uniquely expressed in this wine is a classic example of a 'terroir specific' characteristic, and is distinct from any other location on our estate.

"The 2010 growing season began with perfect spring conditions in the vineyards, and all grape varieties experienced great fruit set. However, temperatures throughout the summer were much cooler than normal.

We recognized that the solution to reaching our preferred level of ripeness-much lower than most vineyards in Napa-was to do extensive 'green harvesting.' Removing early grape clusters to encourage ripening, dropping between one-third to one-half of our perfect looking fruit on the ground-was key to the successful maturity of the vineyard. Not an easy decision to make, and worse yet, the mild temperatures that followed allowed the dropped clusters to continue to look beautiful for more than a week after removal.

The short-lived heat wave that hit Napa Valley in early September was a non-event for Keenan; our cooler climate at elevation and close monitoring of vineyard canopy-no excessive thinning-resulted in a record (33 vintages) late conclusion to harvest: October 27, 2010.

Michael Keenan

REVIEWS

Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s, *The Wine Advocate*, Issue # 204 December, 2012

93 Points "Things get much more serious with the 2010 Merlot Reserve Mailbox Vineyard. This sumptuous, full-bodied wine flows across the palate with layer after layer of rich, resonant fruit. The 2010 boasts marvelous depth and richness, all backed up by the structure of the year and the tannin of this Spring Mountain site. The combination of ripe fruit, acidity and structure is hugely appealing. Floral notes reappear on the polished finish. This is a great effort from Keenan. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025."

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.8%
Total Acidity:	0.56 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.72
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	August 7, 2012
Production:	350 cases
Blend:	100% Merlot
Vineyard Source:	100% Estate Merlot, Mailbox Vineyard