

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2010 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. Eleven 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 2010 Keenan Merlot is composed of seventy-one percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Twenty-nine 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 fourteen days.

The '10 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 # 204 December 2012

92 Points "The 2010 Merlot is an attractive, plump offering bursting with expressive fruit. Sweet, floral and spiced notes add lift on the finish in this mid-weight, vinous Merlot. This is a decidedly accessible wine for the vintage. It is best enjoyed sooner rather than later. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2022."

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.8%
Total Acidity:	0.60 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.69
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 16, 2012
Production:	1,310 cases
Blend:	100% Merlot
Vineyard Source:	71% Estate Merlot, 29% Napa Carneros