

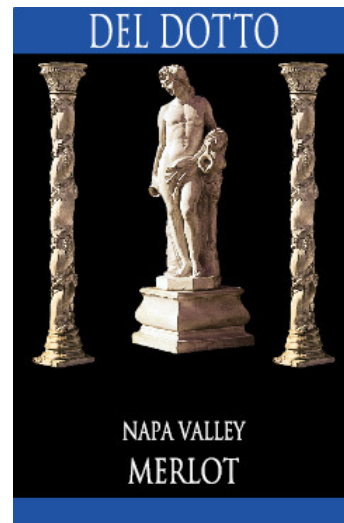
DEL DOTTO

Napa Valley

2005 ESTATE MERLOT

100% MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY FRUIT.



OUR ESTATE MERLOT IS GROWN ON THE FAMED RUTHERFORD BENCH AT OUR HOME RANCH. THE VINES ARE 20+ YEARS OLD AND OCCUPY ONLY 7 ROWS OF OUR 14 ACRE ESTATE VINEYARD. THE VINES ARE BIG AND GNARLY PRODUCING ONLY THE FINEST FRUIT. THE GRAPES FOR THIS MERLOT ARE HARVESTED IN THE COOL, EARLY MORNING MAINTAINING THE NATURAL ACIDITY. THEY ARE HAND PICKED AND DELIVERED TO THE CRUSH PAD WITHIN MINUTES. THERE THE MERLOT IS GENTLY PROCESSED, HAND SORTED AND TRANSFERRED TO OPEN-TOP BINS FOR FERMENTATION. THE FERMENTATION CAN TAKE FROM 7-10 DAYS BEFORE THE GRAPES ARE TRANSFORMED INTO WINE. THE WINE IS THEN SEPARATED FROM THE SKINS, THIS IS KNOWN AS "FREERUN" AND IS PUT INTO NEW OAK BARRELS. THE SKINS ARE GENTLY PRESSED AND THE "PRESS WINE" IS AGED SEPARATE.

DAVE DEL DOTTO AND WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES:

EXHIBIT A DARK COLOR, DEEP, EXPLOSIVE DARK FRUIT WITH ACCENTS OF NEW OAK AND VANILLA. PALATE OF PLUM, BLACK CHERRY, CASSIS AMID RICH, FLESHY FRUIT; THERE IS A HINT OF "RUTHERFORD DUST" CHARACTER. DRIED FRUIT AROMAS OF LICORICE AND BLACKBERRY WITH A LONG FINISH OF VANILLA, ORANGE PEEL, COCOA POWDER AND A HINT OF OAK. COULD BE ENJOYED NOW OR AGED FOR 4-6 YEARS.

WWW.DELDOTTOVINEYARDS.COM

707-963-2134