



Scissor Tail Ranch™

VINEYARD

2012

MERLOT

Sonoma County

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

96% Merlot
3% Cabernet Sauvignon
1% Cabernet Franc

APPELLATION:

Sonoma County

HARVEST:

September/October 2012

TECHNICAL DATA:

14.3% Alc. by Vol.
RS: 0.07
TA: 0.52 G/L
pH: 3.68

COOPERAGE:

100% French Oak
(30% new) for 14 months

VINTAGE:

The 2012 vintage was an ideal growing season from bud break to harvest. The cold winter delayed bud break briefly until spring temperatures allowed uniform shoots to development. The weather during bloom was ideal for fruit set and a large percentage of flowers developed into berries. During the summer the cycle of warm days and cool nights allowed veraison to progress uniformly and quickly. The consistent temperatures and absence of heat spikes removed the risk of sunburn and allow for even ripening. After the prior two late vintages, growers were grateful to start harvest in late August. With warm sunny days, harvest progressed with a steady flow of high quality fruit being delivered to the winery daily. In October cold rains forced many growers to postpone harvest until the wind could dry out the vineyards. A late heat wave was perfect for finishing up the season.

VINEYARD:

The grapes for this wine come from multiple vineyards in Sonoma County, primarily warmer regions bringing nice ripe and fruit forward characteristics to the wine. These vineyard sites consist of a combination of valley and hillside fruit which create a blend of complexity and layers of fruit and structure.

WINEMAKING:

As each vineyard lot reached maturity the grapes for this wine were hand harvested in the early morning hours over several weeks in September and October. Brought from the vineyard in bins, the fruit was de-stemmed, crushed, and fermented in separate stainless steel tanks. Following fermentation the wine lots were transferred to French oak for aging (30% new), with twice yearly rackings for aeration. Prior to bottling the cuvee was assembled using a base of Merlot with lesser amounts of other varietals for breadth and complexity.

TASTING NOTES:

The wine portrays deep, red color with crimson highlights and displays aromas of red currant, cherry and a hint of strawberries dusted with cocoa powder. On the palate this bright and racy, fruit forward wine has similar flavors that expand on the palate with mouth-filling intensity. The well integrated tannins melt away and create a relaxed and lingering finish.