

# 2008 Merlot Cuvée Sonoma County



## A whole new reason to love Merlot

**79 % Merlot, 14% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7 % Cabernet Franc**

We could have called this wine Merlot. However, that would miss the point. It's all about the blend. Cuvée means wine blend in French. Good winemaking is like good cooking. What makes a reduction sauce so delicious is the combination of flavors, the layered sensations. This is the essence of Merlot Cuvée.

Seven of our favorite vineyards supplied the grapes. Our winemaking focused on the individuality of each varietal. The blend, done by taste, married them into a harmonious, full flavored sensation. Barrel aging for 38 months made the wine smooth and mellow. Each element plays on the other; nothing's out of place; every sip memorable.

The focus of Merlot is in the front of the palate, expanding forward like a bubble. The Cabernet Sauvignon tugs on the Merlot pulling it back to fill the mid-palate. The long finish is all Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cabernet Franc takes the Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon flavors to the top of the palate, like dark chocolate, into your nasal cavity, where half your taste sensation emanates. This gives the blend a lift, increased complexity and that hint of chocolate.

The barrel program used 80% American oak. The front palate focus of American oak compared the mid-palate focus of French oak better fits the Merlot. Cabernet Franc loves French oak so about 20% of the new wood was French.

### Tasting notes by Robert Rex, Winemaker:

As of this writing, in April 2013, the wine has been in the bottle for just two months and has just recovered from shock from the bottling. The wine is enjoyable, but I know it will continue to improve, showing more forward fruit over the next six months or more. When you swish the wine around your mouth to reach every part of the palate and let the alcohol take the flavors upward, you can pick out the three individual varietals. The wine is ethereal and has a long finish. The dark berry fruit compote flavors of the Merlot are delicious. The wine is beautifully balanced, but then that is what we at Deerfield are all about.

Like all of the Deerfield wines this Merlot Cuvée is a CleanWine. This means the wine is made with very low levels of sulfites, which can cause allergic reactions, and with very low levels of histamines, which can cause red wine headaches.

Alc. 14.3%, R.S. 0.28%, SO<sub>2</sub> at release 12 ppm  
100% barrel aged for 38 months. New French oak 20%,  
New American oak 80%, 35% new oak overall.  
600 cases bottled February. 7, 2013. Released April, 2012

For more info: Robert Rex, robert.rex@deerfieldranch.com

[www.deerfieldranch.com](http://www.deerfieldranch.com)

[www.cleanwine.info](http://www.cleanwine.info)

