



Coquerel Family Wine Estates

2009 Merlot

Calistoga, Napa Valley

Proprietors – Clay and Brenda Cockerell

Winemaker – Christine Barbe

Production – 77 cases

Tasting Notes

A clear wine with a beautiful reddish purple color and an earthy nose with notes of forest floor, must and mushrooms reminiscent of old world St. Emilion or Pomerol. The flavor recapitulates the bouquet with excellent balance and feminine qualities of ripe fruit with plum overtones but a delicate quality, excellent acidity and a refreshing medium long finish. There is minerality and an earthiness unusual for a California merlot and a low alcohol content of only 13 percent. A beautiful old-world style wine.

Winemaking Notes

The grapes were hand picked October 25th 2009. The wine was fermented in one ton bin then press into barrel for malolactic fermentation and aged 18 months in French oak. Only 77 cases were produced.

Vintage Notes

This is our first vintage of Merlot and is produced from our estate vineyard located in Calistoga. In 2008 we conducted a soil study of entire property. The result of this study showed that despite the deep, rich soil of the majority of our land, the Merlot vineyard is actually planted on a gravel area, allowing the vines to experience a water deficit early in the season around veraison. This deficit is necessary to produce quality red fruit; small berries and phenolic compounds such as tannin and color.