



**PLUMPJACK**

WINERY

PlumpJack  
2008 Merlot  
Napa Valley

*VINEYARDS...*

As in years past the main source for the PlumpJack Merlot is Beckstoffer's Orchard Ave. in the Oak Knoll appellation (83%). The Cabernet Sauvignon (13%) and Cabernet Franc (1%) are primarily from Kenefick Ranch in Calistoga. The Petit Verdot (2%) is from Beckstoffer's Melrose vineyard in Rutherford and the Malbec (1%) is from Garvey Estate in the eastern foothills of Rutherford.

*HARVEST...*

The harvest for the 2008 Napa Valley Merlot started on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and finished on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. Average brix at harvest was 25.6, pH was 3.61 and TA was .51

*FERMENTATION...*

The Merlot was fermented on skins for an average time of 14 days with a maximum temperature of 88 degrees. The fermentation times for the other varieties varied between 10-41 days with an average temperature of 88 degrees.

*AGING...*

18 months in 70% new oak (80% French and 20% American). The wine was racked quarterly.

*BOTTLED...*

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*OUR THOUGHTS...*

A staple of the PlumpJack Winery portfolio of wines, the 2008 PlumpJack Merlot balances strength and finesse. A drought year combined with an early season frost led to a diminished crop where the grapes had to struggle to mature, thus producing very small berries and in turn intense age worthy wines. We were fortunate enough to produce 2,137 cases given the limited crop. This year's Merlot is blended from 4 unique Napa Valley Vineyards and is comprised of all 5 Bordeaux varieties (83% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Malbec).

Restrained elegance is a way to describe the 2008 PlumpJack Merlot. Primary aromas of baked plums, cardamom, mulling spices and blackberry are followed by secondary aromas of chocolate, vanilla beans and warm fudge. In the mouth, primary flavors of berry cobbler, plums and cocoa are followed by secondary flavors of herbs de provence, cedar and cigar smoke. Firmer with broader shoulders at this point than the 2007, the 2008 Merlot will benefit from a 2-3 hour decant if enjoyed in its youth but will age wonderfully if cellared for 3-5 years

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