



1998 Merlot

Varietal	100% Merlot
Appellation	Napa Valley
Alcohol	14.2%
Release Date	September 2000
Case Production	500 cases

This is an opulent and exciting new wine for us which is distinct from the "Reserve" Merlot bottling. Clusters came in at full ripeness and maturity in late October. After extended maceration and 20 months in 70% new French oak, it was bottled unfinned and unfiltered. The wine exudes beautiful blackberry fruit, cedar and vanilla aromas. Jammy, yet serious, the wine is rich and ripe on the palate, framed with soft tannins.

"Ripe and spicy, with pretty currant, plum and berryish fruit, framed by toasty, cedary oak and finishing with firm tannins."

- James Laube, *Wine Spectator*