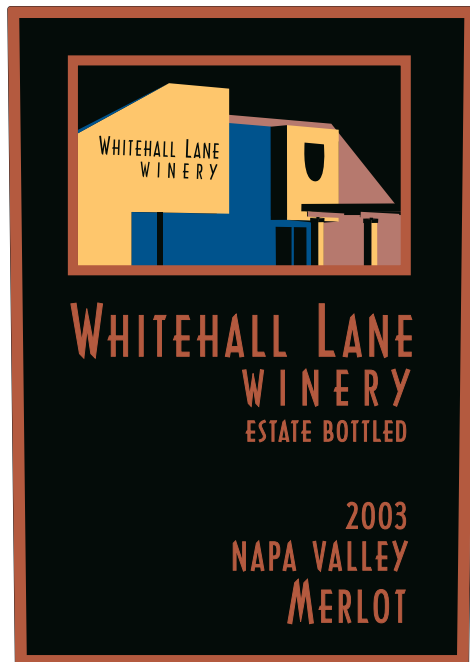


# WHITEHALL LANE WINERY

## 2003 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY



From *Quarterly Review of Wines*,  
Summer 2006:

**Best of Show**

**FIVE STAR WINE**



Deep, rich, ripe, long, elegant, wonderfully complex, blackberry, fine herbs and cocoa flavors.

Whitehall Lane Winery

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St. Helena, CA 94574

800-963-9454

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**Blend:** 87% Merlot  
7% Cabernet Sauvignon  
6% Cabernet Franc

**Production:** 9,430 cases produced

**The Vintage:** Growing conditions in 2003 began with a cool, wet spring that delayed bud break. However, there was bright sunshine in late spring and early summer, allowing the vines to begin very positive development. The grape flavors developed slowly during the cooler than normal summer months and a heat spike in mid September elevated the sugars and flavors to ripeness.

**Winemaking:** The Merlot grapes that make up this blend were all harvested by hand at the end of September and first week of October 2003. The grapes were grown primarily in the winery's Estate Vineyard and Leonardini Vineyard. The fruit was fermented at an average of 86°F with systematic pump-overs for excellent flavor and color extraction. The wine was aged in a combination of American and French oak barrels for 18 months. Cabernet Sauvignon was added to the blend to add weight in the midpalate and increase the complexity and length on the finish. The Cabernet Franc enhances the aromas and adds notes of spice to the wine.

**Tasting Notes:** This Merlot is medium-bodied with aromas of spice, plum, violets and toasty oak. The wine is inherently soft and delivers silky flavors of blackberry, fig and plum. It is pleasantly balanced with good weight in the mid-palate and enough tannin for a velvety, lingering finish. Enjoyable now with aging potential to 2007.