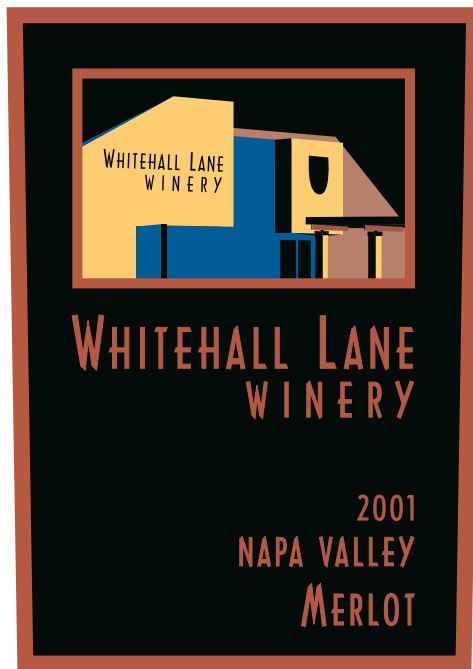


WHITEHALL LANE WINERY

2001 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY



Blend: 89% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon

Production: 9,050 cases produced

The Vintage: The 2001 growing season began with an ideal bloom and fruit set in mid-May despite a surprise frost. May and June were especially warm, aiding the early development of the grape clusters. The remainder of the summer and harvest season, through the end of October, was ideal with near perfect daytime temperatures and cool nights. This growing year resulted in beautifully balanced fruit with intense flavors and good structure.

Winemaking: The Merlot grapes that make up this blend were all harvested by hand during the month of September 2001. 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 mid-palate and increase the complexity and length on the finish.

Tasting Notes: This full-bodied, harmonious Merlot has rich aromas of blackberry, plum and toasty oak. The wine is youthfully bright, delivering flavors of ripe blackberry, blueberry and spice. It is pleasantly balanced with good weight in the mid-palate and a velvety, lingering finish. Enjoyable now with aging potential to 2008.

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