



2008 Merlot

Napa Valley



Our Unfiltered 2008 Barlow Merlot has a deep, concentrated violet-purple color with aromas of rich raspberry, black cherry with an essence of sweet French vanilla. The palate is highly concentrated with deep and generous flavors of ripe currants, blueberries and Bing cherries. The tannins are soft and luxurious and are a great counterpart to the sweet flavors of toasty oak.

2008~While a lighter than average vintage, 2008 looks to be another where vintners and growers in Napa Valley will continue their well-earned reputation for excellence in the world of wine.

Growers met the challenges of a crazy weather year, with low yields but fruit with incredible concentration, another high-quality vintage revealing very well structured concentrated, elegant wines.

The Valley received little more than 60% of its normal rainfall. Spring was one of the driest on record. The vines pushed out early, and with the frigid, dry air created conditions for the deepest and longest frost period in decades.

The dryness of the season produced less vine canopy, and allowed the vines to focus on fruit production. The summer season continued with cooler, consistent temperatures.

Growers initially predicted an early harvest, because of the early vine development but because of the cooler summer, it started a little ahead of normal. A week long heat spell over the Labor Day holiday drove several varieties to ripeness all at once. Just as quickly as the heat arrived, a switch turned and the temperatures dropped to well below normal. The following weeks returned to seasonally normal temperatures with warm days and cool nights, the red varieties continued on the vine with optimal hang time, excellent ripening, and balanced structure.

VINTAGE STATISTICS:

BLEND	<i>100% Merlot</i>
HARVEST DATE	<i>September, 2008</i>
BOTTLING	<i>June, 2010</i>
AGING	<i>21 months in French Oak</i>
ALCOHOL	<i>14.9% Unfiltered</i>
PRODUCTION	<i>196cases</i>
RELEASE DATE	<i>March, 2011</i>