



2009 Merlot

Napa Valley

Our Unfiltered 2009 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 creating a great counterpart to the sweet flavors of toasty oak.

Mother Nature was once again a super-hero in 2009, providing winemakers lush, beautiful grapes for great wine. Though rainfall was little more than two-thirds of normal for the third year in a row, the timing of the precipitation was on the vine's side. Couple that with the lack of frost and the mild, relatively cool growing season, Mother Nature managed to have it all work in unison to give vines and grapes the best scenario possible. The 2009 vintage in America's most renowned wine growing region is producing outstanding fruit that looks and tastes to be a spectacular vintage. Initial reports all the way around are finding vintners and growers delighted with 2009s. Winemakers are unanimous in their tasting of exceptionally bright flavors across all varieties this year. Neither the grapes nor the vines experienced any stress, no raisining, no sunburn, just great hang time, producing balanced sugars and acids.

AWARDS AND RATINGS:

GOLD-San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

VINTAGE STATISTICS:

BLEND	<i>100% Merlot</i>
HARVEST DATE	<i>October, 2009</i>
BOTTLING	<i>August, 2011</i>
AGING	<i>22 months in French Oak</i>
ALCOHOL	<i>14.9% Unfiltered</i>
PRODUCTION	<i>357 cases</i>
RELEASE DATE	<i>March, 2012</i>