

2012 HARTWELL ESTATE MERLOT
STAGS LEAP DISTRICT, NAPA VALLEY



HARTWELL
ESTATE VINEYARDS

*100% Hartwell Estate Vineyards
Stags Leap District, Napa Valley
85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon
Harvested October 10th – October 21th
Aged 18 months in 100% new French oak barrels
350 Cases Produced
Release Date: Spring 2015*

Vintage Notes:

The 2012 growing season was exceptional for California winegrowers. It started with a wet winter and spring, transitioning to great weather that blessed us during bloom with an incredible fruit set. In this relatively warm year, one of the keys was to drop the crop aggressively (just after two years of very light production).

As always, a few high heat events occurred towards the end of the growing season but we were able to harvest concentrated berries that were fully ripe with great flavors. We are extremely happy to release that newest vintage of Hartwell Vineyards Estate Merlot. I hope you appreciate the wines just as much as we enjoyed the growing season.

Tasting Notes:

Extremely limited in production, the 2012 Hartwell Estate Merlot exhibits complex aromas of violets, black cherries, rhubarb, strawberry preserves, cherry cola and oak with a cigar box quality. The full-bodied palate showcases notes of candied fruit, star anise, licorice and rhubarb, finishing with our signature fresh cut tobacco leaf that only our Estate vineyard provides. The powerful yet refined tannins ensure a long life of hedonistic pleasure.

Benoit Touquette, Winemaker

*Grow the best grapes....
....Make the best wine.™*