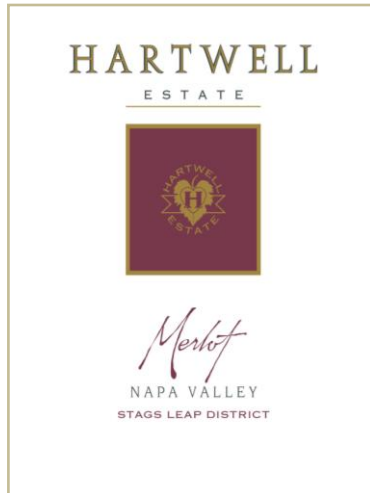


**2008 HARTWELL ESTATE MERLOT**  
STAGS LEAP DISTRICT, NAPA VALLEY



*100% Hartwell Estate Vineyards  
Stags Leap District, Napa Valley  
96% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon*

*Harvested September 3<sup>rd</sup> – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Aged 18 months in 100% new French oak barrels  
9L Cases Produced: 265  
Release Date: Spring 2011*

The 2008 vintage will be remembered for the small crop of dark and deeply concentrated fruit resulting from the climatic challenges throughout the year. Spring started the growing season with severe frost which limited the fruit set for most of Northern California. Several heat spikes followed during the summer months with drought conditions intensifying the stress on the vines and in turn yielding a smaller berry size during the fruit set. Autumn then ushered in moderate and even temperatures during harvest, ensuring that all the fruit ripened to its fullest flavor potential.

Extremely limited in production, Hartwell's 2008 Estate Merlot exhibits complex aromas of raspberry ganache, baker's chocolate, black cherry pipe tobacco and split vanilla bean. The full-bodied palate showcases notes of candied cherry, mission fig and Oolong tea, 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.™*