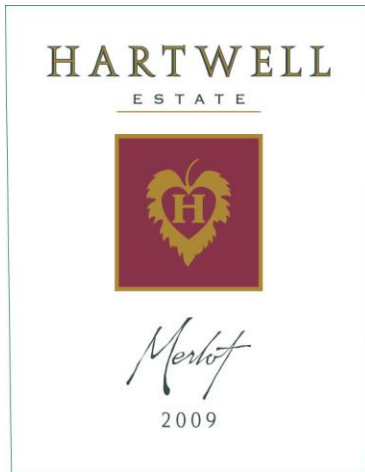


2009 HARTWELL ESTATE MERLOT
STAGS LEAP DISTRICT, NAPA VALLEY



HARTWELL
ESTATE VINEYARDS

*100% Hartwell Estate Vineyards
Stags Leap District, Napa Valley
85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon*

*Harvested September 4th – September 19th
Aged 18 months in 100% new French oak barrels
9L Cases Produced: 285
Release Date: Spring 2012*

Mother nature worked her magic here on Wappo Hill and bestowed our vines with another favorable season and harvest. A lack of frost, coupled with a mild and relatively cool growing season, permitted extended hang time, thereby allowing the fruit to ripen to full phenolic maturity with balanced sugar levels. For the past three years, rainfall levels in Northern California have been a little more than two-thirds above average. This vintage was no exception, although the timing of the rains was fortuitous. Fortunately, our Estate vineyards were harvested shortly before the autumn rains arrived! The 2009 vintage exhibits concentrated flavors, mature tannins and aromatic complexity.

Extremely limited in production, Hartwell's 2009 Estate Merlot once again reaches the lofty potential of this noble Bordeaux varietal. Captivating the senses with vivid aromatics of Rainier cherry, Damson plum, caramel macchiato, cardamom and new saddle leather, the palate unleashes bold impressions of olallieberry, star anise and orange pekoe tea. The profound yet harmonious tannins ensure a long life ahead of maturation and development.

Benoit Touquette, Winemaker

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