

## 2011 HARTWELL ESTATE MERLOT

STAGS LEAP DISTRICT, NAPA VALLEY



HARTWELL  
ESTATE VINEYARDS

*100% Hartwell Estate Vineyards*

*Stags Leap District, Napa Valley*

*100% Merlot*

*Harvested September 24<sup>th</sup> – October 28<sup>th</sup>*

*Aged 18 months in 100% new French oak barrels*

*Release Date: Spring 2014*

The 2011 growing season was very challenging for most California winegrowers. It started with a wet winter and spring, continuing with rainfall into mid-June that delayed bloom and disrupted fruit set. Thus setting the stage for a long, cooler-than-average growing season with a later-than-average harvest marked by autumn storms. All of the cloud cover and cool temperatures delayed vine development by several weeks.

A few high heat events occurred towards the end of the growing season. However, we opened up the vine canopies to ensure sunlight, warmth and good air circulation around the grape clusters. Rain in October caused further delays, but we were able to get good hang time and reach full maturity development. 2011 was a year of patience.

Always limited in production, Hartwell's 2011 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.™*