



# PLUMPJACK

WINERY

## 2013 PLUMPJACK MERLOT, NAPA VALLEY

VARIETALS 87% Merlot, 13% Malbec

PRODUCTION 1990 cases

ALCOHOL 15.2%

### VINTAGE

Mother Nature defines each vintage for fine wines, and the 2013 vintage was no exception. In the winter of 2013, we saw above-average temperatures and little rainfall in Napa Valley. The warm, dry weather was persistent and the results were significant. We saw early budbreak, smaller grapevine canopies, and less fruit than normal. Also, the grapes were smaller and had much thicker skins than we typically see. These grapes were packed with flavor, and the color, intensity, and concentration was out of this world. Needless to say, these grapes resulted in spectacular wines that are rich, bold, and highly structured.

### FERMENTATION & AGING

The Merlot grapes were cold-soaked for three days before the onset of fermentation. The fermentation was then allowed to reach a maximum temperature of 89 degrees F and pressed off the skins after six to ten days. The wines were then put into oak barrels where they underwent malolactic fermentation with 65% of these barrels being new and the balance being once-filled barrels. French oak Bordeaux barrels made up 87% of our Merlot barrels and 13% were American Oak barrels. The coopers used include Sylvain, Taransaud, Nadalie, and Demptos. The Merlot was aged for 18 months before bottling.

### WINEMAKER IMPRESSIONS

Our Merlot vineyard is in the Oak Knoll region of the Napa Valley, nestled up to the Mayacamas Mountain Range on the west side of the valley. The mild climate and alluvial soils in this region lend this wine great balance and structure. The mild temperatures allow these grapes to develop bright aromatics and flavors, along with a beautiful natural acidity and elegance. The alluvial soils bring darker fruits to the nose and palate, and give this wine its structure and concentration. The 2013 vintage gave this wine aromas of bright, wild raspberry, black cherry, earth, and slate, with the barrels contributing some spice and smoke. The palate is full-bodied and rich, with bright and sweet fruits, such as raspberry and cherry. The wine then reveals earthy notes and finishes with dark chocolate. The robust structure and bright acidity give this wine great tension, balance, and a lengthy finish.

