

2006 Merlot

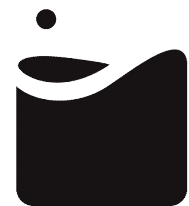
Our Bell Mountain Vineyard plantings are complex. The numerous small blocks of high density plantings on steep hillsides of rock and clay are a real challenge to farm and the vines have to work hard to thrive, focusing their energy into producing delicious fruit. The payback is that these low-yielding and hard-working (read: "difficult to farm") vines produce the best fruit for making the wines we love. As in previous vintages, the core of this wine comes from our oldest Merlot plantings where tiny clusters of the inky dark Jefferson clone produce wonderful fruit. We only wish we had more.

2006 was not the easiest vintage but some ruthless fruit thinning and careful babysitting helped get this block to the point of optimal ripeness and balance. This is not your typical Merlot. Intensely flavored and highly structured with tightly woven layers of dark fruits, mocha, spices and fine, ripe tannins. Bell Mountain Vineyard appears to bear certain briar and spice laden characteristics that this wine shares. Bright acidity tempers the heady fruit flavors and structure nicely. We look forward to enjoying this Merlot over the next five years.

Profile

Appellation	Alexander Valley
Harvest	9-30 to 10-25-2006
Cooperage	100% French Oak; 62% new
Blend	95% Merlot; 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
Alcohol	14.5%
Brix	25
pH	3.83
Total Acidity	0.361 g/100ml
Bottling	5-28-08
Production	598 cases

Medlock Ames | 13414 Chalk Hill Road | Healdsburg, CA 95448
T: 707 431 8845 F: 707 431 8603
info@medlockames.com www.medlockames.com



Medlock Ames