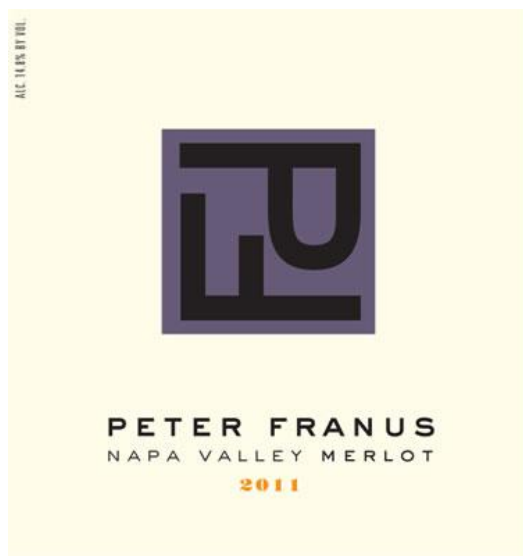


## 2011 PETER FRANUS NAPA VALLEY MERLOT



Vineyards:	Stewart Vineyard Carneros Sugarloaf Mountain
Composition:	93% Merlot 7% Cabernet Franc
Harvest Date:	Oct 3 & 27, 2011
Fermentation:	10 days, peak temperature 82°
Oak aging:	19 months French 55% new
Bottling Date:	June 14, 2013
Production:	211 cases 750ml

TA 0.58 g/100 ml

pH 3.52

Alc. 14.6%

RS 0.47 g/L

CALIFORNIA RETAIL PRICE \$32

Our mission continues—to restore Merlot to its rightful stature as one of the world’s great varieties. So many seem to forget that some of the most highly regarded and sought after wines in the world come from Pomerol and Saint-Émilion, the land of Merlot. When it realizes its potential, it offers one of the most pleasurable of all red wine experiences.

Thirty years of winemaking experience has provided me with this insight: you know you are growing the right grape in the right location when it performs year after year. I can say this unequivocally about Stewart Vineyard Merlot. Even in the most difficult vintages it has consistently delivered, and it is typically the “go-to” wine in the barrel room because it tastes so good right from the start.

Stewart Vineyard has provided me with outstanding Sauvignon Blanc since 1999, and more recently Albariño and Chardonnay. This unique site in Carneros suppresses vigor so berries are typically small and shoot growth modest, producing wines with excellent concentration and wonderfully ripe flavors. In a world of so many wines that taste alike, it is a pleasure to work with grapes that express genuine personality.

2011 was a complicated vintage. A cool wet spring diminished crop levels in many vineyards and late ripening vineyards were problematic. On the other hand, cool conditions allowed wonderful flavor development with ripeness achieved at lower sugar levels. If you were one of the fortunate ones, you had the opportunity to produce some wonderful wines.

Medium ruby in color, our 2011 Merlot offers an enticing nose of black cherry, plum, dried herb, with a hint of vanilla and just the right amount of sweet oak. The cool growing season was perfect for Merlot, resulting in a further intensification of its classic flavors and aromas. Lively, structured, elegant and complex, this is a wine that offers satisfaction at the moment but will reward many years down the road. Wonderfully palatable, this is a wine that invites me back again and again for another taste.

When Merlot realizes its potential, it offers exactly what wine drinkers are looking for—soft, lush, great fruit, and the appropriate amount of tannin—here you go!