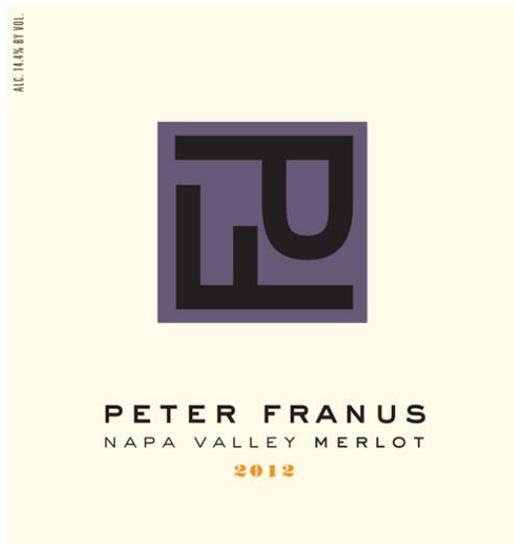


2012 PETER FRANUS NAPA VALLEY MERLOT



Vineyard Sites: Stewart Vineyard—Carneros
Truchard Vineyard—Carneros

Composition: 90% Merlot
10% Cabernet Franc

Harvest Dates: Oct. 12 & 30

Fermentation: 8 days, up to 82°

Maceration: 15 days total before pressing

Oak aging: 18 months
100% French Oak 55% new

Bottling Date: May 8, 2014

Production: 187 cases

TA 0.62 g/100 ml pH 3.53 Alc. 14.8% RS 0.15 g/L CALIFORNIA RETAIL PRICE \$34

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.

After three challenging vintages, we were rewarded in 2012. Sunshine and a warm dry spring gave way to mild and ideal growing conditions through the summer as well as a lengthy ripening period. It was a welcome relief to this veteran winemaker who has experienced more than 30 harvests in Napa Valley.

Dark ruby in color, our 2012 Merlot offers a deep and sultry nose of black cherry, cocoa, thyme, and black olive. Sweet French oak melds seamlessly with the wine. In a year like 2012, it was easy to push the concentration envelope. We are pleased that this wine maintains the restraint we seek in all our red wines—lively on the palate with a wonderful balance of fruit, tannin, structure, and acidity, the hallmark of this vineyard.

As we travel around the world presenting our wines at tastings and dinners, the response to our Merlot has been exciting and gratifying. We have no hesitation in saying, this wine epitomizes the definition of “delicious!”