



CHARLES CREEK

VINEYARD

2004

Pasatiempo Merlot

Sonoma County/Carneros/Sangiacomo Ranch

Winemaker: Kerry G. Damskey
Production: Limited Release
Date of Bottling: December 13, 2006

The Vineyards: 100% Sangiacomo Vineyard, Sonoma Valley-Carneros region

The Vintage: Early bud-break and a warm, dry growing season led to an earlier than usual harvest in the vintage of 2004. Temperatures in the Carneros were milder than those in the Napa Valley, allowing for full maturation without shriveling or dehydration. With low crop yields, the fruit is deeply colored, flavorful and concentrated, inviting comparison to the dynamic wines of 2002.

The Blend: 100% Merlot

Winemaking: 100% Open Top-Punch Down Tank Fermentation
24 months in French Oak Cooperage

The Wine: This classic California Merlot combines the best of both worlds; the fully ripe fruit of the new world with the complexities and ageability of Bordeaux's Right Bank.

Deep ruby color and aromas of dark fruit, spice and pencil lead serve as a prelude to flavors of dark cherry, cola spice, and a hint of herb. Overlaying the delicious Merlot fruit component is the Medium + toast (think roasted espresso bean), caramel, vanilla and spice contribution of quality Radoux barrels.

Bright on the entry and well-integrated in terms of tannins, this bottle would lay down well over the next 6-8 years or pair beautifully with the lamb loin or rare duck breast on the table this very evening.

"Everything that new world Merlot should be, but too rarely is".

The Stats: Alcohol: 14.5%
Total Acidity: 6.2 G/L
pH: 3.52