CHARLES CREEK
VINEYARD

2005
Guillermo M.
Merlot
Brinton Vineyard-Sonoma Mountain-Sonoma Valley

Winemaker: Kerry G. Damskey
Production: Small Lot
Bottling Date: November 7, 2007

The Vineyards: 100% Sonoma Mountain (Brinton Vineyard).

The Blend: 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

The Winemaking: 100% Open tank fermentation
22 months in French and American Oak Cooperage

The Vintage: While complicated by heavy rains in the late winter, a mid-march spring heat wave kicked off the growing season in a big way. Rains continued on an off through June with moderate temperatures overall; growers were forced to drop fruit that was affected by botrytis and mildew resulting in somewhat smaller crop yields. Ultimately, the vineyards got the sun and heat that they needed resulting in good quality fruit.

The Wine: A nod to Pomerol, this Merlot-centric, Estate Grown blend incorporates the ripe fruit of its California birthplace with the complexities of a traditional right bank wine. A hint of earth and leather precedes the dark cherry fruit aromas, following on the palate with crisp acidity and slightly dusty tannins. Given 6-8 years in the bottle to round and soften, subtleties and complexities of flavor will continue to emerge around the dark berry fruit, vanillin and spice of this youthful wine.

The Stats: Alc: 13.9%
Total Acidity: 0.54
pH: 3.56

Serve with: Slow roasted meats, such as lamb shanks or osso buco would shine with this bright, flavorful Merlot blend

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