



# CHARLES CREEK

## VINEYARD

2005

*Pasatiempo Merlot*

*Sonoma/Carnero-/Sangiaco Vineyard*

Winemaker: Kerry G. Damskey  
Production: 1250 cases  
Date of Bottling: November 8, 2007

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

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 Blend: 100% Merlot

Winemaking: 100% Open Top-Punch Down Tank Fermentation  
22 Months Radoux Cooperage (French & American)

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.

Serve with: This classic Merlot pairs beautifully seared lamb loin or rare duck breast.

The Stats: Alc: 14.7%  
TA: 6.2 G/100 ml  
pH: 3.52  
RS: 0.01% (Dry)