



CHARLES CREEK

VINEYARD

2006
Merlot
Napa Valley

Winemaker: Kerry G. Damskey
Production: 136 cases
Date of Bottling: October 14, 2010

Appellation: 100% Napa Valley
88% Madrigal Vineyard, 12% Stagecoach Vineyard

The Vintage: Kicking off with the dramatic floods of the New Year (no harm done to the vineyards) and rains that continued into the spring, bud break was a bit delayed in 2006. Although a few weeks behind the “normal” cycle, by June the vines had bloomed and fruit had set. A July heat wave may have helped to accelerate ripening but cooler weather in August and continued mild weather through harvest allowed for good flavor development at reasonable sugar levels.

The Blend: 88% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon
22 months in French & American Oak Cooperage

The Wine: This well structured Merlot may bring to mind the more Merlot-centric wines of right-bank Bordeaux rather than the typical California iteration of this varietal. The nose is suggestive of dark, briary fruits and hints of pencil shavings; in the mouth notes of black plum/cherry are accented with cedar, spice, licorice and toasty oak. Tannins are moderate; drinking over the next 2-4 years is recommended.

Serve with: Grilled or slow-cooked meats come to mind; even moderately spiced pulled pork would pair well.

The Stats: Alc: 14.9%
TA: .65 mg/100 ml
pH: 3.46
RS: nil