

WINE LIBRARY ARCHIVE ~ Original Wine Notes

RUBISSOW-SARGENT 2003 Merlot - Mt. Veeder
NIGHT HARVESTED



WINEMAKER NOTES

*One of *very few* Merlots produced from this rugged, mountainous region of Napa Valley. Growing Merlot organically on our steep hillsides makes for a wine of especially lively character, well suited to enjoy with today's adventurous culinary styles and rich flavors. The 03 Merlot was Night Harvested, crushed cool and cold-soaked for optimal expression of the wine's distinct Mount Veeder character. Though American Merlot is often considered a soft, velvety wine, we endeavor to take that predictable and sometimes bland-sweet character and notch it up several hundred feet into more intriguing, hillside territory. The result: **Merlot for Cab drinkers!** This is what Merlot tastes like when it is grown in less cushy surroundings.

Spicy, peppery black cherry and plum fruit balanced with palate-refreshing raspberry acidity. Subtle flavors of mint and cocoa complement the wine's ripe plum and lavender aromas. The Rubissow Vineyard is 100% organic (non-certified). The entire property is farmed using state-of-the-art organic practices.

When to drink it:

Tastes very good right now. Will continue to improve in bottle through 2010.
Decanting the wine or pouring it By The Glass will serve to open up its delicious complexity.

Pairing Suggestion:

This is a Merlot that likes steak and rich, salty foods.
Mushroom & Parmesan pizza is a good choice too!

Appellation: Napa Valley, Mt. Veeder - Rubissow Vineyards

Harvest Date: September 26 - October 4, 2003

Blend: Merlot 96 %
Cabernet Sauvignon 4%

At Harvest;

Brix: 25.0
Total Acid: 0.55 gm / 100ml
pH: 3.26

Alcohol: 13.9%
Fermentation: 18 days before pressing
Barrel Aging: 17 months in French chateau barrels. 1/3 new - 2/3 aged.

Production: 1114 cases - 750 ml

Winemaker: Tony Sargent

Sugg. Retail: \$29 - General Inventory SOLD OUT.

ACCOLADES

"Cherryish, plum flavors. Overall a nice wine. Shows the winery's future direction. Improved richness of fruit."

-RONN WIEGAND
*Master of Wine, Master Sommelier
& Publisher of Restaurant Wine.*

