



2005 Rubissow Merlot

APPELLATION

100% Mt. Veeder, Napa Valley - Rubissow Vineyards

PRODUCTION

12/750 ml - 471 cases

BLEND

95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

WINEMAKER NOTES

NOSE: Ripe plum, black cherry, vanilla bean and sweet, toasty oak.

TASTE: A cool climate style. Like a Carneros merlot in its rich fruit and good acidity. Almost Cab-like. Good tannins, ripe plum and blackberry fruit, with bay leaf and mint overtones lasting through the long finish. Has tremendous character and sense of place. Very good right now. Will improve in bottle through 2010.

TECHNIQUE: Hand sorted fruit, fruit destemmed and berries barely broken, 5 day cold soak, wild and inoculated fermentations, all small lot open top fermentors, hand punch downs and pumpovers three times daily, malolactic completed in barrel, minimal handling (3 rackings) , bottled UNFINED and UNFILTERED.

HARVEST DATES

October 7, 17, 21, 2005

FERMENTATION

24 days before pressing

BARREL AGING

20 months in artisan French oak cooperage

ALCOHOL BY VOL

14.5%

WINEMAKER

Timothy Milos

Accolades

"...possessing the kind of fruity succulence that we look for in top-flight Merlot...shows its mountain origins... fruit powers through all else at the finish and guarantees good things to come some three or four years hence. Drinkable now. Further bottle aging can improve this wine."

90 POINTS

CONNOISSEURS GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA WINE - March 2009

"Juicy and bright with lovely racy plum and lush texture; rich and generous with superb fruit and a long, clean and pure finish."

92 POINTS

*ANTHONY DIAS BLUE
Tasting Panel Magazine - March 2009*

"...rich and textured with forward ripe berry flavors, refined tannins, and good balancing acidity...Smooth and fruit-forward, this 2005 Merlot has good structure, fruit, and length.."

*GERALD BOYD
Wine Review Online - October 2008*