



2014 SONOMA COUNTY RESERVE MALBEC

Chateau St. Jean's Reserve wines are crafted by selecting the vineyard lots from throughout Sonoma County that offer the most generous fruit expression and the ability to age. Our line of Reserves wines includes incredible expressions of Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Merlot and Malbec.

VINTAGE & VINEYARDS

The beautiful 2014 growing season resulted in wines with great depth of flavor, intense color and excellent balance. The Malbec consistently ripened with a concentrated core of fruit balanced by bright acidity.

Winemaker Margo Van Staaveren has championed Malbec and believes the variety flourishes in Sonoma at selected sites. It has become one of her favorite wines to bottle as a varietal. The Malbec for this wine comes from the Asti Vineyard in Alexander Valley at the northern end of Sonoma County as well as the St. Jean Estate vineyard in the heart of Sonoma Valley.

WINEMAKING

The Reserve Malbec was blended with a small amount of Merlot (5%) to round out the final blend. Individual lots of each variety were aged separately for 28 months exclusively in small French oak barrels (47% new). Barrel by barrel, each lot was tasted and the most outstanding Malbec barrels were selected and then blended with specific lots of Merlot to complete the final wine.

TASTING NOTES

This 2014 Reserve Malbec opens with vivid aromas of fresh blackberry and black currant, followed by hints of clove and a high-tone violet floral note. The inviting nose leads to lush palate with powerful yet smooth tannins. Flavors of blackberry pie, black cherry and sweet baking spices are distinct on the full-bodied palate. The wine is round and plush with balanced acidity leading to a long, flavorful finish.



VARIETAL COMPOSITION

Malbec (100%)

ANALYSIS

Alc: 14.7%

TA: 0.63 g/100ml

pH: 3.70

HARVEST DATE

September 13-24, 2014

HARVEST SUGAR

25.6° Brix