



Ramsay

Merlot 2010

Napa Valley

Grape Source Hillside and Valley Floor, Napa Valley

Harvest September 16 – October 7, 2010

Chemistry at Bottling -pH: 3.51 -Total Acidity: 5.8 grams/liter -Alcohol: 13.85% -Free Sulfur Dioxide: 29 parts per million -Total Sulfur Dioxide: 109 parts per million

Sensory Notes:

In 2010, I went looking for a new Merlot vineyard in the hopes of finding more refined structure and fruit. In the end, I made several wines, each from a different vineyard. We've all heard Aristotle's adage, "The whole is greater than the sum-of-the-parts," and this is true when it comes to blending. I had planned to blend the best of these lots together, but in the end I think I found a perfect vineyard. The wine from these grapes was far better than any blend I could come up with from the other experiments. (So much for Aristotle!) What makes it even better is that the grower is a nice person to work with and he has quite a lot of this fruit! As is typical of our Ramsay Merlots over the last decade, the 2010 is a rich wine, with lots of nice ripe fruit, but it is not a huge tannic monster. I like big, juicy, friendly wines and this one is absolutely succulent.