



Ramsay

Merlot 2015

North Coast

Lab Stats: Alcohol 13.75% T.A. 5.3 g/liter pH 3.79

Blend: 98% Merlot 2% Zinfandel

Winemaker Notes:

Merlot is such a funny wine—not because of what is IN the bottle—but because what people THINK of it. In California, Merlot was a little-bit of a latecomer to the varietal party. There were a couple of wineries making the variety in the very late 1960's, but Merlot didn't really start to get famous as a stand-alone until the 1980's when you started to hear people saying "I'll have a glass of the Merlot" (or MER LOT) as they belted up to the bar. Then everything crashed in 2004 with Miles' famous quote in the movie Sideways. Since then Merlot has slowly taken back its rightful place in the wine world, and I, for one, am glad to see it back.

The 2015 Ramsay North Coast Merlot is a wine that Miles clearly never tasted. If he had tasted it, his wrath would have been directed elsewhere (like "French wine"). With all of my wines I am on a continuous search for better and better grapes with each passing vintage. I add a couple of new vineyards each year and occasionally jettison one that isn't keeping up the quality. I try to improve our wines each year and have to say, at the risk of patting-myself-on-the-back, that the 2015 IS indeed the best Merlot I have made to date.