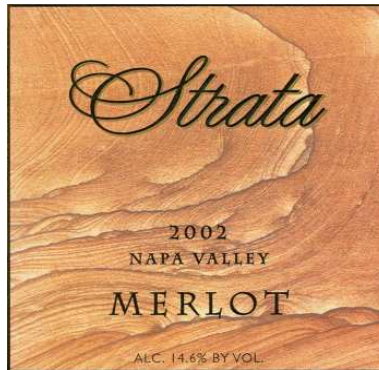


Strata 2002 Merlot



WINERY:

John Johnson and Dave Cofran bought the property in 1995. They planted what had previously been fruit orchards and grazing land with Merlot grapes. Their first vintage was 1999. John Johnson has been managing vineyards in Napa for 25 years. Dave Cofran was general manager of Silver Oaks since it was established until he retired.

DESCRIPTION:

According to Winemaker Dave Cofran, the 2002 Merlot is deep and dense with aromas of black cherry, blueberry, chocolate, cinnamon and toasty sweet oak. On the palate, it's lush and silky with deep, concentrated flavors of chocolate, black cherry and sweet oak; it's excellently balanced for drinking now, but has the structure to age gracefully in your cellar. The 2002 Merlot is Napa Valley Merlot kicked up a notch or two! Drink now or cellar a case and enjoy the wine as it evolves over the next decade.

SELECTION:

100% Estate Merlot. The 10 acre Estate Vineyard is located in the Oak Knoll district of Napa Valley. Deep layers of clay are overlaid with seams of cobblestone and a thin layer of loam. These soil characteristics and the uniquely cool climate, combined with the lyre trellis system to provide the vines with uniform sun exposure, allow the grapes to maximize their color, flavor and texture. Harvested at 24.6 brix.

COOPERAGE:

23 months in:

50% new French oak puncheons

50% new American oak puncheons

ANALYSIS:

14.5% by volume

PRODUCTION:

1200 cases 750 ml

BOTTLED:

November 6th, 2004

RELEASE DATE:

Fall 2005

Arizona Distribution by

Orangewood Wines

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