



FLORA SPRINGS



WINEMAKER NOTES

Our Napa Valley Merlot was always Flora's favorite, and for good reason, as this smooth, supple yet well-structured red wine offers such immediate drinking pleasure. The 2014 vintage unfolds with inviting aromas of dark plum and black cherry and hints of cardamom, nutmeg and cinnamon spice. In the mouth the deep purple fruit flavors unfurl on a richly textured palate, joined by notes of saffras, baked pie crust and dusty cocoa. A judicious touch of oak adds a toasty vanilla accent to the wine, and its long finish carries a tinge of sweet tobacco and dark chocolate. This wine is wonderful on its own – the way Flora enjoyed it – or it can be paired with a variety of dishes, including barbecued meats and vegetarian pastas.

ALL THE FACTS

Appellation: *Napa Valley*

Varietal: *100% Merlot*

Cases Produced: *6,000*

Aging: *16 months in small oak barrels; mixture of new and seasoned.*

Suggested Retail Price: *\$30*

Enjoyability: *Drink now through 2020 for optimum enjoyment*

ON THE VINE

In spite of a year that saw the continuation of California's drought as well as an earthquake in southern Napa Valley, vintners in the region celebrated another vintage for the record books in 2014. Heavy rains in late February and early March gave a much-needed drink of water to vines as they emerged from dormancy, and a warm, relatively frost-free spring allowed bud break, flowering and fruit set to proceed without interruption. Continued warm, dry weather throughout the summer brought the grapes to perfect ripeness in a harvest that was relatively early and also bountiful. 2014 was the third great vintage year in a row for Napa Valley, with vintners using phrases such as "excellent quality," "depth of flavor" and "exciting concentration" to describe the forthcoming wines.

Our 2014 Napa Valley Merlot draws from our sustainably-farmed estate vineyards in Napa Valley, St. Helena and Rutherford. Blending grapes from different sub-appellations and vineyards creates a multi-faceted wine with notes of dark red and purple fruits in addition to a variety of spices and other complex flavors.