



## 2015 NAPA VALLEY MERLOT

### **Winemaker Notes:**

The 2015 Marilyn Merlot is a rich ruby wine with purple hues that immediately catch one's eye as it is poured in the glass. The aromas exhibit good intensity with a complexity of cassis, blueberries and hints of spice and earthy characters. This Merlot elegantly glides over the palate with a solid medium plus body, excellent, well balanced structure with well integrated tannins. The flavors mimic the aromas with added nuances of tart cherries, vanilla and a bright lingering finish. Very enjoyable now but will age well for 4-7 years.

### **The Vineyards:**

The backbone of this wine is from grapes from Andy Beckstoffer's Missouri Hopper vineyard with a supporting cast of vineyard sources in Napa Valley including Merlot from both the Rutherford and Howell Mountain appellations.

### **The Vintage:**

One of the better years in the last 10. No rain from late spring until well after we were finished picking, hence no need to pick early for fear of rain or to let hang for flavor as both sugar and maturity were reached easily. Moderate temperatures throughout with only a few heat spikes during the growing season.

### **Pairing:**

Well made Merlots pair well with many foods, from steaks to pizza, almost any meal is better with Merlot.

### **Photograph:**

Milton photographed Marilyn at his New York studio on March 28, 1955, for LOOK magazine. The shoot included Marilyn glowing in her black robe snuggling with a Pekinese dog.



UPC: 852600004007



Grapes: 100% Merlot  
Appellation: Napa Valley  
Sugar: 0.5 (dry)  
pH: 3.52  
Acid: 6.25 g/L  
Alcohol: 14.1%  
Suggested Retail: \$30.00  
Winemaker: Bob Pepi