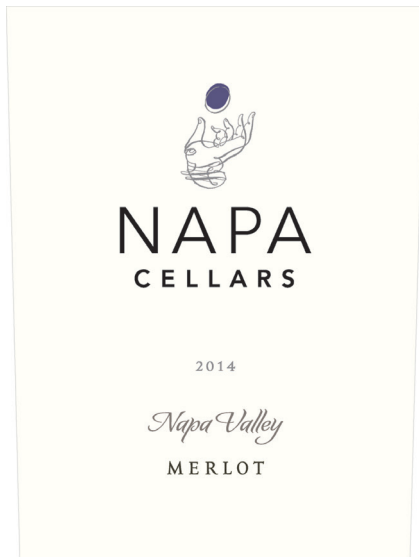




With more than 40 years of winemaking heritage in California's most fabled wine region, Napa Cellars embodies the classic, unmistakable style of Napa Valley. Veteran winemaker Joe Shirley crafts our wines from estate vineyards and coveted partner sites throughout Napa's most revered sub-appellations. Meticulous care in the vineyard, coupled with gentle winemaking techniques, ensures our wines reflect the quality and richness of Napa Valley's terroir.

**2014
NAPA VALLEY
MERLOT**



VINEYARDS

Grapes for the 2014 Napa Cellars Merlot were sourced primarily from the Oak Knoll region (87%), along with smaller portions from Carneros and Rutherford—all regions ideal for cultivating Merlot grapes. The moderate to cool climate in Napa Valley supports an extended growing season, resulting in wines of elegance and complexity.

CLONAL SELECTIONS

New clones (181, 347)
Old clones (6, 3, 8)

HARVEST

The 2014 growing season was another remarkable vintage for all varieties across Napa Valley. Exposure to late fall rain was largely avoided, thanks to one of the earliest harvests on record in the region. Although much of the fruit had already been picked by late August, a significant earthquake struck Napa on August 24, leaving growers and vintners with some unexpected twists during harvest season. Overall, the early harvest ensured optimal ripeness and excellent flavor development in the vineyard, and great depth and complexity in the glass.

WINEMAKING

Once harvested, the fruit underwent a 10- to 14-day maceration period to maximize color and flavor extraction and to polish the tannins. After the fermentation process was complete via the délestage method, the wine was aged for 24 months in 100% French oak barrels.

PALATE

Our 2014 Merlot delivers aromas of dark plum, mulberry and graphite, with hints of lavender beneath. Flavors of bright red berries brim on the palate, and the fine grained tannins create a silky mouthfeel. For a decadent meal, pair our 2014 Merlot with roasted duck or honey-barbequed chicken with a side of ricotta risotto.

WINE INFORMATION		
APPELLATION: Napa Valley	COMPOSITION: 100% Merlot	
AGING: 24 months, 33% new oak (100% French)		
ALCOHOL: 14.5%	T.A.: 0.57 g/100ml	PH: 3.65
HARVEST DATE: September 11 - October 8, 2014		RELEASE DATE: May 2017
CASES: 16,850		