



T I T U S
V I N E Y A R D S

**2012 MERLOT
NAPA VALLEY**

Vintage

The 2012 growing season started with an exceptional fruit set that allowed for tailoring the eventual ripened crops through green harvest. Three previous vintages had offered lower yields. That said, yields from 2012 were back to 'normal' and even a bumper crop in some cases. Heralded as a 'classic' Napa Valley vintage, the growing season was long. Days were warmer than average and nights were very cool. These temperature fluctuations created even ripeness in the berries with great acidity to assist in aging ability and higher sugars to help create lush, full wines. Harvest was easy going with no surprise rains or temperature spikes. The wines from this vintage will be talked about for many years to come.

Vineyard

Our family vineyard is located on 40 acres of Napa Valley floor just north of St. Helena on the Silverado Trail. It has well-drained, sandy, alluvial soils and is characterized by its ability to produce complex wines with well-defined fruit flavors, gentle acids and naturally balanced tannins. The fruit from this small section of vineyard is largely devoted to blending into our Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon wines with any excess reserved for a small production, varietal Merlot wine.

Wine Profile

We've been waiting for this Merlot since 2009! And let us tell you, it was worth the wait. Full sweet-sour cherries a la mode, light red apple and tutti frutti fill your nose and make you salivate. The first sip fills your mouth with flavor (as any good Merlot should!) but isn't overpowering or fuzzy. Red cherry lozenges, milk chocolate, mild herbaceous notes and toasty oak round out the palate while good tannic structure and a smooth medium plus finish leave you ready for more. Decant while young, or cellar till 2022 and beyond.

Technical Information

Vineyard Manager:	Eric Titus	Release:	August 2014
Winemaker:	Phillip Titus	Barrel Aging:	20 months
Appellation:	Napa Valley		French Oak, Hungarian Oak
Harvest Date:	October 5, 2012		40% New
Blend:	78% Merlot	Bottled:	June 2014
	14% Cabernet Sauvignon	Alcohol:	14.5%
	5% Malbec	Total Acidity:	.61g/100 ml
	3% Petit Verdot	pH:	3.78
Cases Produced:	432		