



## 2009 MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY

<i>Release Date</i>	September 1, 2011
<i>Vineyard Locations</i>	A Yountville site and a vineyard in the foothills just south of Stags Leap District
<i>2009 Growing Season</i>	Overall this was a fairly cool vintage. Spring and summer offered long stretches of warm, sunny days and chilly nights. A gentle heat spell in September warmed the vineyards at the right time to usher in a harvest of gorgeous, rich fruit.
<i>Varietal Composition</i>	92% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Malbec
<i>Brix at Harvest</i>	23.5° – 25.5°
<i>Cooperage</i>	20 months in 60-gallon French oak barrels (75% new: Vosage, Allier, and Tronçais)
<i>Alcohol</i>	15.1%
<i>Food Affinities</i>	Flatter Merlot's fruit by adding a similar element of fruit to poultry, pork and meat dishes (duck breast with dried cherry-Merlot sauce, roast chicken with cranberry-wild rice stuffing). Carmelized onions, roasted garlic and mushrooms are pleasant companions.



### WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

*"2009 is a great year for this varietal. The purity of aromas and flavors is focused and alive – this is unmistakably Merlot. Predominantly I find delicious red fruit with a core of lush black fruit – red cherry, red plum, spice and berry with hints of eucalyptus, earth and smoke. There's lots of flesh here held together in a structure of fine, ripe tannins"*

— ELIAS FERNANDEZ

### WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

*"One of California's most popular luxury priced Merlots is also one of the state's best."*

— RICHARD NALLEY, FORBES

### SHAFER VINEYARDS

Shafer Vineyards is a 32,000 case winery in Napa Valley's Stags Leap District managed by the father and son team of John and Doug Shafer. The Shafer family owns and farms 200 acres of vineyards, sources for Shafer's Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, and Syrah.