



2014 MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY

<i>Release Date</i>	September 1, 2016
<i>Vineyard Locations</i>	Stags Leap District, Yountville, and a site in the foothills of the Vaca Mountains
<i>2014 Growing Season</i>	This was another in a string of warm, sun-soaked vintages from spring through early autumn. The consistency of daytime heat and evening coolness created a model growing season in which we harvested fruit with abundant color and concentration, along with enticing, rich aromatics.
<i>Varietal Composition</i>	78% Merlot, 14% Malbec, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon
<i>Brix at Harvest</i>	23.5° – 25.5°
<i>Cooperage</i>	20 months in 60-gallon French oak barrels (85% new: Allier and Tronçais)
<i>Alcohol</i>	15.3%
<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

"This was a beautiful vintage for Merlot. From the first pour the wine opens an of abundance enticing aromas and mouth-coating flavors of fresh summer berries, dark plums, and strawberries, fresh herbs and flowers all presented with juicy energy, surrounded by seamlessly textured tannins that will age attractively with cellaring."

—ELIAS FERNANDEZ

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

"Expressive floral and spice notes open up first in the 2014 Merlot. Fresh, nuanced and energetic in the style of the year, the 2014 is a highly representative wine for the vintage."

—ANTONIO GALLONI

SHAFFER VINEYARDS

Shafer Vineyards is a 30,000 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.