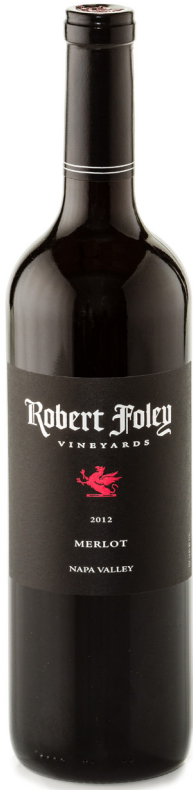


Robert Foley

VINEYARDS



2012 MERLOT

I produced my first commercial Merlot in the 1976 vintage when it was about as well-known as Charbono is today. After several years of trying to convince folks to give it a try, its popularity grew and eventually snowballed.

Of course, Bordeaux producers have worked with this grape variety for many years and it is the noble variety of the Cabernet family on the right bank of that region. Like its Cabernet cousin, Merlot's response to well-drained soils is profound expression and firm structure in the wines grown there.

This is a Merlot for Cabernet lovers. Black currant, cassis and ripe cherry aromas follow through in a sweet lush mid-palate. Candied fruit flavors and velvety tannins are balanced with bright natural acidity, providing a long finish with suggestions of chocolaty mocha. Masculine structure and spice from Howell Mountain marry perfectly with the round femininity of Calistoga to create a perfect textural balance.

SPECIFICATIONS

Wine: 2012 Merlot

Appellation: Napa Valley

Vineyards: Calistoga and Howell Mountain

Variety: 100% Merlot

Harvest: Hand-picked October 2012

Vinification: Ten-day fermentation, French Oak barrels

Alcohol: 14.2%

Bottled: May 2014

Production: 800 cases

Winemaker: Bob Foley

Retail price: \$52