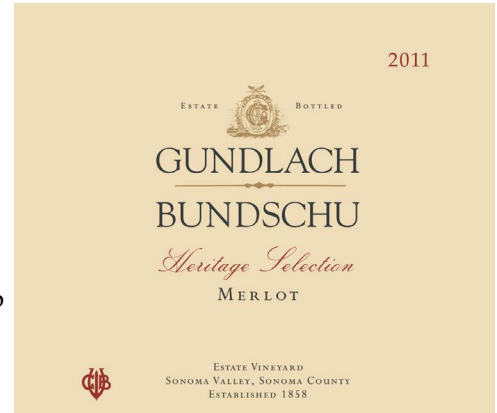




2011 MERLOT, HERITAGE SELECTION ESTATE VINEYARD, SONOMA VALLEY

ESTATE GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED

- The Bundschu family's 150+ year-old vineyard is located on the southwest slopes of the Mayacamas Mountains, just 8 miles north of San Pablo Bay.
- Steep southwest-facing hillsides of shallow, rocky soils of volcanic ash and alluvial wash. Pervasive maritime breezes and long daylight exposure allow fruit to develop intense concentration while retaining vibrant structure.
- Two distinct blocks of merlot have consistently produced top lots with the greatest complexity, concentration and balance. Beginning in 2010, the top five barrels from these lots are selected for this distinctive bottling.



WINEMAKING & ANALYSES

- Two lots optically sorted and gravity fed to fermentation vessels.
- Three-to-five day cold soak; D254 yeast strain; 25-28 days maceration.
- Extraction through gentle pumpovers tailored by lot, using louvers and screens to eliminate pumping skins and seeds.
- Lees stirring for 4 months during secondary fermentation.
- Seventeen months in 100% French oak, 60% new. Primary cooper Nadalie.
- 14.2% alcohol. TA 0.55g/100ml. pH 3.82
- 115 cases produced.

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

Deep dark color and dense aromas of lush black cherry, cigar box, freshly ground espresso bean and wisps of hickory smoke. The opulent palate of dark chocolate, black cherries and fresh cream is powerful and silky, with incredible length and balance. This serious merlot offers tremendous richness and intensity today and will develop complexity and elegance with 3-10 years cellaring.

Jeff Bundschu
Sixth Generation Vintner

Keith Emerson
Winemaker

