



GUNDLACH BUNDSCHU

EST. 1858

2012 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.
- 14.8% alcohol. TA 0.54g/100ml. pH 3.77
- Bottled April 2, 2014; 106 cases produced.

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES

Opulent in color, and rich in comfortingly warm aromas of cassis and black raspberry swirled with hints of earth, smoke, and spice, or "barrel essence" as our winemaker notes, the 2012 Heritage Merlot showcases why the Bundschus continue to be stalwart advocates of this varietal for more than 35 years. The medium to full bodied palate finds a subtle yet beautiful integration of black cherries, dark chocolate, espresso, and spices clove and fresh star anise, drawn into a long, balanced finish. Fantastically lush and complex now, the elegance currently offered is only a tease of what will come with 3-15+ years of cellaring. If you can keep your hands off of it for that long.

Jeff Bundschu
Sixth Generation Vintner

Keith Emerson
Winemaker

