

## 2010 Rutherford Estate Vineyard Merlot Napa Valley



### *Winemaker's Notes:*

This Merlot has a deep, rich purple hue. Blackberry, raspberry and chocolate mocha dominate the aromas with a background of vanillin showing the French oak barrel maturation and a hint of cranberry. Black plum, cassis and vanillin toasted oak are found on the palate. This Merlot has good weight and is both elegant and structured.

### *Growing Season:*

The 2010 growing season presented us with lower than average temperatures and good rainfall. Summer ranged from very mild to being quite cool, allowing even and steady fruit ripening. August had excellent temperatures, accelerating maturation with a brief hot spell. The mild summer resulted in a long hang-time for the fruit yielding tremendous flavor intensity and development.

### *Winemaking:*

The fruit was hand harvested in the cool morning hours and brought to the cellar in small bins. The grapes were then delivered to a double hand sorting system. First, the clusters were sorted for those of best condition, then the clusters were destemmed and transferred to a vibrating table. During this final stage, the individual berries were hand sorted to ensure that the most ideal grapes were chosen. These berries were placed in small open top fermenters for a short period of resting on skins. Warm fermentation temperatures were encouraged during vinification along with gentle punch downs to achieve the desired color and structure for the wine. After remaining on skins for an extended maceration period, final pressing occurred and wine was transferred directly to barrel for 20 months of maturation.

### *Rutherford Estate Vineyard:*

St. Supéry's Rutherford Estate Vineyard is on the "Rutherford Bench" of mineral-rich alluvial soils and sandy clay loam from the Mayacamas Mountains. Deep, well-drained soil allows the grapevine's root system to mine for nutrients and water, which yields complex and concentrated flavors in the fruit. Roughly 35 acres of our Rutherford Estate Vineyard are planted with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc – varietals perfectly suited for the climate and soils in Rutherford.

<b>Appellation:</b>	Rutherford
<b>Vineyard:</b>	Rutherford Estate Vineyard
<b>Variety/Blend:</b>	100% Merlot
<b>Oak Maturation:</b>	100% French oak (64% new French oak) for 20 months
<b>pH:</b>	3.46
<b>T. Acidity:</b>	6.1 g/L
<b>Residual Sugar:</b>	Dry, <0.2%
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.9%
<b>Harvest Dates:</b>	October 15 and 18, 2010
<b>Bottling Date:</b>	July 26, 2012
<b>Suggested Retail Price</b>	\$50.00
<b>Case Production</b>	1,451 cases