



## 2011 Rutherford Estate Vineyard Merlot Rutherford, Napa Valley

### *Winemaker's Notes:*

Attractive red and purple hues present in this Merlot. Opulent aromas of black cherry, cassis and plum are enhanced with cocoa, anise and a hint of French oak. Rich flavors of juicy blackberry and black plum combine with dark roasted mocha and toasted French oak. This youthful and vibrant wine finishes with a finely grained structure and elegant integrity.

### *Growing Season:*

The year started with very cold conditions and high rainfall. Winter was said to have the fourth highest rainfall in 40 years. Spring moved temperatures up into the 70s, with late May bringing more rain. June began with significant rainfall during flowering, reducing crop yield. The summer provided good sunshine, although it was cooler than summer's past. Late August and September were warm and encouraged good ripening.

### *Winemaking:*

The fruit was hand harvested in the cool morning hours and brought to the winery in half ton bins. At the winery, the clusters were sorted using a double sorting system. First, the clusters were sorted by hand. The fruit then ran through a small destemmer that removed stems from the grapes and dropped the fruit onto the sorting tray. Finally, we hand-sorted the individual berries to ensure that the most ideal grapes were chosen. These berries were delivered into a small open top fermenter where there was a brief period of resting on skins. Warm fermentation temperatures were encouraged along with gentle pneumatic punch downs to achieve the desired color and structure for the wine before an extended maceration time on skins prior to final pressing. The 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.

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<b>Appellation:</b>	Rutherford, Napa Valley
<b>Vineyard:</b>	Rutherford Estate Vineyard
<b>Variety/Blend:</b>	96% Merlot 4% Cabernet Sauvignon
<b>Oak Maturation:</b>	100% French oak (63% new French oak) for 20 months
<b>pH:</b>	3.54
<b>T. Acidity:</b>	6.1 g/L
<b>Residual Sugar:</b>	Dry, <0.2%
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.5%
<b>Harvest Dates:</b>	October 2, 12, 22 and 23, 2011
<b>Bottling Date:</b>	July 29, 2013
<b>Case Production</b>	567 cases
<b>Suggested Retail Price</b>	\$50.00