

FRANCIS COPPOLA[®]

DIAMOND COLLECTION[®]

"With our Diamond Collection Merlot, I like to say that I taste family. Developing close relationships with grape growers is always a goal and we have been fortunate enough to work with the same core group of growers since our premier vintage in 1997. Together we uphold a commitment to showcase Merlot's lush, fruit-forward drinkability while bringing out the best of the grape's unique character. In doing so, we discovered that first year that blending in a small amount of Syrah gave our Merlot an added richness and complexity. While today we also blend in Petite Sirah to provide that extra element, the dedication to produce outstanding Merlot continues."

—Corey Beck, Winemaker

FRANCIS COPPOLA DIAMOND COLLECTION 2009 MERLOT

The Francis Coppola Diamond Collection began in 1996 as an ambitious endeavor to make wines of character and complexity at an affordable price. Sourced from California vineyards that not only have proven track records but are also managed according to our rigorous standards, Diamond Collection wines are classic California expressions that offer fruit-forward, multi-dimensional flavor and immediate drinkability. Our illustrious lineup includes eleven single-varietal wines, plus our flagship proprietary blends. These wines are a true labor of love—we invite you to share them with us.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

With Merlot, the objective is to create a wine that has structure and complexity, but soft, smooth tannins. We find that sourcing fruit from several different appellations works best to give us a Merlot that exudes multiple layers of flavor and a nice seductive texture. We also blend in small amounts of Syrah and Petite Sirah to achieve a richer color. Grapes that come from Paso Robles provide sweet fruit flavors, spice notes and earthy, mineral nuances while the Sonoma fruit contributes natural acidity to create more balance and finesse. Monterey County grapes provide concentration; a result of the well-drained sandy loam soils that characterize the region.

2009 was an excellent vintage that featured only light spring rain, warm summer weather and no abrupt climate changes at season's end. These amazing conditions resulted in a richly textured Merlot that's abundantly flavorful and perfectly balanced by supple tannins and notes of spice and oak.

TASTING PROFILE

Appearance Rich magenta
Aromas Boysenberries, anise and cedar
Flavors Black currant, crème de cassis, plums, dark chocolate and spices



Corey Beck, Winemaker



Appellation California
Blend 82% Merlot, 10% Petite Sirah,
8% Syrah
Alcohol 13.5%
Total Acid .59 g/100ml
pH 3.69
Barrel Regimen 14 months French oak
Released May 2011
Suggested Retail \$18.00