



FROG'S LEAP

1994 MERLOT

Napa Valley

THE BLEND

83% Merlot
12% Cabernet Franc
5% Cabernet Sauvignon

STATISTICS

Organically Grown
13.5% alcohol
5.9 g/L total acidity
3.57 pH

WINEMAKING

natural yeast
natural malolactic
French Oak 18 months
unfined
unfiltered

WINEMAKERS

John Williams

ABOUT THE WINE

Well, here they come: the first reds of the spectacular 1994 vintage. You've had your first taste with our juicy Zinfandel...are you ready for the 1994 Merlot?

Ready or not this is great wine: big powerful and rich - yet balanced and satiny smooth. Here's a wine that simply exudes pleasure. For those of us who grew up drinking Bordeaux, we need to clear our minds when we think about what makes a great vintage in the Napa Valley. In France, cold rainy weather is often what defines marginal results. In the Napa Valley it is quite the opposite. Hot dry weather often brings on the grapes too fast. It provides a high alcohol potential but leaves insufficient time for the grapes to properly develop flavors and finesse.

1994 was a blessed vintage with long, warm (but not hot) days and very cool nights. The grapes had plenty of "hang time" ripening late into the fall. The cool nights allowed the grapes to retain a high level of natural acidity. The resulting wines showcase the richly developed fruit with uncommon depth of character and superb finishes. The 1994 Frog's Leap Merlot with its lush, silky, red-cherry fruit is polished with a bit of Cabernet sauvignon and Cabernet franc helping to ensure that this wine will give as much pleasure in the future as it does today.