



FROG'S LEAP

1997 MERLOT

Napa Valley

THE BLEND

78% Merlot
16% Cabernet Franc
6% Cabernet Sauvignon

PRODUCTION

9,200 cases

RELEASE DATE

October 1999

STATISTICS

13.9% alcohol
5.9 gr/1 total acidity
3.5% pH

WINEMAKING

native yeast
natural malolactic
aged 18 months in
80% French -20% American
oak

WINEMAKER

John Williams
Paula Siroky

ABOUT THE VINTAGE

1997 marked the unusual concurrence of one of the most bountiful yet earliest harvests ever recorded. We began picking the first of our Merlot vineyards September 4th - a full three weeks early - and completed picking by October 1st. Warm temperatures continued right through picking leaving winemakers scrambling for tanks and a day off.

ABOUT THE WINE

1997 offered plenty of power and strength to its wines. The challenge was building upon this power and strength to establish complexity, depth and finesse. Our 1997 Merlot profits heavily from the judicious blending of Merlot from different parts of the Valley: Carneros, Yountville and several different locations in Rutherford. Multiple sites give different profiles of Merlot that, when blended with its partners Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, deepen and enrich the wine. Our 1997 Merlot is a big wine, with the heady scent of plums and raspberries expanding into chocolate and tobacco. Yet the wine is multi-dimensional, surprisingly light on its feet and certainly supple enough for even the most die-hard of Merlot fans.