



FROG'S LEAP

2011 MERLOT *Rutherford Napa Valley*

THE BLEND

88% Merlot
10% Cabernet sauvignon
2% Cabernet franc

RELEASE DATE

September 2013

STATISTICS

harvested —
September 26 – October 27
22.2° brix at harvest
12.7% alcohol
5.9 gr/L total acidity
3.64 pH
aged 19 months in French and
American oak

WINEMAKERS

John Williams
Paula Moschetti

VINEYARDIST

Frank Leeds

A BRIEF HISTORY

A part of our family since 1990, Merlot holds a special place in the heart of Frog's Leap as the majority of the fruit comes from the Estate surrounding our winery and historic Red Barn. Situated in the eastern part of Rutherford this vineyard is perfectly suited for growing Merlot due to its rich, clay loam soils. We have found over the years that Merlot likes "cool feet" and a "warm body." The clay soils hold more moisture keeping the root-zone cool, while the setting sun over the Mayacamas gives our vines an extra hour of evening sun. Sustainable and dry farming practices reveal the true personality of the varietal, which we describe as having red fruit flavors with a soft, supple texture. We believe that our Merlot is another great ambassador of the Frog's Leap style — elegant, balanced and restrained.

ABOUT THE WINE

It is said in our business that the true test of a winery is the ability to produce an excellent wine in a difficult vintage. Make no mistake, the 2011 vintage was one that we will all remember as, quite possibly, the most challenging in the last 35 years; especially when it came to Merlot. Given those challenges we are proud to have succeeded in producing a wine that is both charming now and will have a place in our cellars for decades to come. It is beautifully fragrant and, though it is lighter and less deeply textured than a typical Frog's Leap Merlot, it has wonderful drinkability. But most of all is that it makes no apology, it celebrates its 2011-ishness: It is proud. It asked for a little help—a touch of its big brother Cabernet sauvignon and a splash of its cousin Cabernet franc—something it rarely does. But beyond that it kept whispering to me in the cellar, "Let me be the 2011 Frog's Leap Merlot ... I will not let you down". And, it hasn't.