



FROG'S LEAP

2013 MERLOT *Rossi Vineyard - 'Ray's Block'* *Rutherford*

THE BLEND

75 % Merlot
25 % Cabernet franc

PRODUCTION

372 cases

RELEASE DATE

September 2015

STATISTICS

harvested —
August 30
24.5° brix at harvest
13.8% alcohol
5.8 g/L total acidity
3.61 pH
aged 20 months in 87% French oak
and 13% American oak

WINEMAKERS

John Williams
Paula Moschetti

VINEYARDIST

Frank Leeds

A BRIEF HISTORY

The historically significant Rossi Vineyard, first planted in 1866, is the crown jewel of all of our vineyards. In its early days the Rossi's youngest son, Ray, assumed the grape growing and winemaking duties. He carried on this role until his passing at the age of ninety-one. Although he never said it publicly, he had a fondness for Merlot and we're pretty sure his small two-acre plot was his favorite. We now call it 'Ray's Block' and honor him with this special wine.

ABOUT THE WINE

There is major buzz among knowing wine lovers for the 2013 vintage: Perfect weather combined with lower average yields to produce wines that deliciously combine power and elegance. The 2013 Merlot Rossi Vineyard 'Ray's Block' is no exception.

Sitting next to Ray's Block, which was planted in 1991, is a small block of young Cabernet franc. When deciding to blend these neighboring varietals, the wines of Saint-Émilion came to mind: wines prized for their expression of Merlot and Cabernet franc in combination. The ripe, purple-plum aromas and soft, succulent flavors of the Merlot are enhanced by the raciness supplied by Cabernet franc's raspberry and ripe, red fruit flavors. Together they absolutely delight the senses! I'm inspired to dig out that recipe for roasted quail stuffed with oyster mushrooms and glazed with just a touch of balsamic reduction.