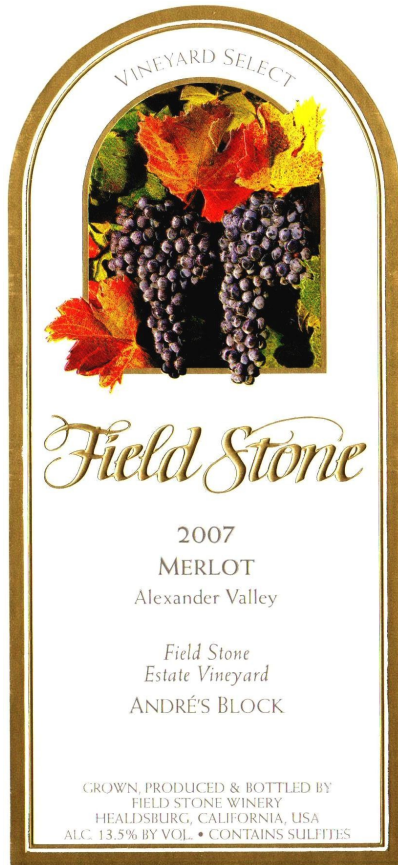


Field Stone

WINERY & VINEYARD



Vintage: 2007

Varietal: Merlot

Appellation: Alexander Valley

Vineyard: André's Block

Harvest Dates: September 12 & 19, 2007

Average Sugar at Harvest: 25.0 Brix

Average Acid at Bottling: 6.80 gm/liter

Average pH at Bottling: 3.45

Barrel Ageing: 18mos. New American Oak (30%)

Alcohol: 13.5% by volume

Cases Produced: 496

The Story Behind "André's Block"

This luscious Vineyard Select Merlot is specially selected from a precious family vineyard block that is named after our long-time friend and consultant, the late André Tchelistcheff, who, in the mid-1980s, facilitated a joint-venture possibility between famed Château Ausone and ourselves. Château Ausone is one of the twelve Premiers Grands Crus in the St.-Emilion region of Bordeaux where Merlot is the preeminent red instead of Cabernet Sauvignon. It was Ausone's highest rating of our vineyard site (among twenty-seven others in Napa and Sonoma) that convinced us: Serious Merlot could find a perfect home with us in Alexander Valley. Our Merlot dream came to fruition in 1997 when we planted three esteemed clones: two highly acclaimed French clones (the big, dark and delicious *181*, and the complex, full-fruited *314*), and the esteemed California *Bear Flat*. Our venerable Cabernet estate vineyards now have a worthy Bordeaux brother.

What's Unique About This "Vineyard Select" Merlot

Beginning with 2007 we decided to create a special bottling each year of the "crème de la crème" of the crop from André's Block. The winning blend came from a marriage between Mr. "Big, Dark, and Delicious" (181 clone) and Ms. "California Svelte" (Bear Flat clone). With complimentary new French-coopered American oak (30%) this deep, full-fruited big red is packed with all the attributes necessary to be compared to our acclaimed Cabernets: deep violet color, seductive complex aromas, and rich flavors.