



## 2011 MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY

<i>Release Date</i>	September 1, 2013
<i>Vineyard Locations</i>	A Yountville site and a vineyard in the foothills just south of Stags Leap District
<i>2011 Growing Season</i>	The vintage started with a cool spring and the summer that followed was sunny and mild holding fruit development to a slow, even pace. With extra work in the vineyard, pruning away any less than ideal fruit, we enjoyed a harvest of beautiful fruit loaded with elegant, enticing flavor.
<i>Varietal Composition</i>	75% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Malbec, 2% Petite Verdot
<i>Brix at Harvest</i>	23.5° – 25.5°
<i>Cooperage</i>	20 months in 60-gallon French oak barrels (75% new: Vosage, Allier and Tronçais)
<i>Alcohol</i>	15.1%
<i>Food Affinities</i>	Flatter Merlot's fruit by adding a similar element of fruit to poultry, pork and meat dishes (duck breast with dried cherry-Merlot sauce, roast chicken with cranberry-wild rice stuffing). Carmelized onions, roasted garlic and mushrooms are pleasant companions.



### WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

*"From one of the most difficult vintages in our history comes a wine that richly rewards all our efforts – from fragrant aroma through the round, full mouth to its long, polished finish this wine offers both layered complexity and easy-to-love juiciness. In the nose and mouth I get so many scents and flavors – red and black cherry, red and black plum, smoke, white pepper, sage, oregano and wet earth. This lush package is kept together in a structure of fine, ripe tannins."*

— ELIAS FERNANDEZ

### WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

*"...jumps from the glass with dark cherries, spices, sage, mint and licorice. There is good juiciness and depth in the Merlot. The 2011 is a bit darker in tonality than the 2010. This is a terrific effort for the year ..."*

— ANTONIO GALLONI, *THE WINE ADVOCATE* (DEC. 2012)

### SHAFER VINEYARDS

Shafer Vineyards is a 32,000 case winery in Napa Valley's Stags Leap District managed by the father and son team of John and Doug Shafer. The Shafer family owns and farms 200 acres of vineyards, sources for Shafer's Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, and Syrah.