



## 2012 MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY

<i>Release Date</i>	September 1, 2014
<i>Vineyard Locations</i>	A Yountville site and a vineyard in the foothills just south of Stags Leap District
<i>2012 Growing Season</i>	This was a classic Napa Valley vintage filled with warm, sunny days and perfect, chilly nights from spring through early autumn. The consistency of heat and coolness created a model growing season in which we harvested fruit at ideal ripeness brimming with rich color and flavor.
<i>Varietal Composition</i>	87% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Malbec
<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 a superb vintage, this wine introduces itself with enticing perfumy aromas of cherries and briar fruit that fill not just the glass but the space around the glass. This Merlot shines with juicy, chewy flavors of cherry pie, blackberry, strawberry, minerality and soil – it's an elegant, mouth-filling wine whose lengthy finish will leave you wanting more."*

— ELIAS FERNANDEZ

### WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

*"... another sensational offering from Doug and John Shafer and their longtime assistant, Elias Fernandez. The sweetness of the tannins, the sucrosity of the fruit and the wine's richness and expansiveness suggest another great vintage in Napa Valley. This is a sensational Merlot."*

— ROBERT M. PARKER, JR., *THE WINE ADVOCATE* (OCT. 2013)

### 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.