



KENDALL-JACKSON®

Grand Reserve

2005 MERLOT

JACKSON ESTATES GROWN

Winemaking Philosophy

Grand Reserve is a masterful blend of our mountain, hillside, ridge and benchland grapes grown along California's cool coastal appellations.

We hand-select grapes from our best estate vineyards and then monitor, taste and hand-hold each individual lot throughout the winemaking process. Each lot is kept separate, barrel-aged and handcrafted — boutique winery style. Our winemakers have an unmatched palate of flavors, toast levels and terroir nuances from which they masterfully blend these exemplary rich, deep and complex wines.

Experience the Difference

- 100% Jackson Estates Grown on vineyards that we own or control ensuring that our precision farming methods are used and grapes are harvested at the peak of their maximum potential.
- Handcrafted from the top 1.5% of all the Kendall-Jackson Merlot wine lots.
- Grapes are sourced from lower-yielding estate vineyards and specially-designated "Grand Reserve" blocks.
- 70% of the wine is from the same vineyard blocks year-to-year ensuring greater consistency and enhanced complexity with each vintage.
- Precision harvesting, de-stemming, and pressing methods are utilized so the grapes are handled in the most delicate manner possible.
- Saignée method of extracting small amounts (5%-15%) of fresh juice augments complex tannins and overall concentration by increasing the skin to juice ratio prior to fermentation.
- Pre-fermentation cold-soak adds layers of complexity by extracting a different profile of silky phenolics. This gentle skin contact results in tannins that are rounder, more lush, lingering and voluptuous.

2005 Vintage Profile

The 2005 vintage will go down as the most surprising in Kendall-Jackson history. The rains lasted three months longer than usual which was well into June. This highly unusual weather created an exceptionally long bloom season and led to our big surprise — a large healthy crop.

A comfortable summer melded into a rainless fall ensuring the perfect environment for grape development. The harvest began late and went on and on, all day, all night and every day through late November. In fact, harvest lasted so late, we had to choose between another helping of turkey or more grapes for our wines. Truly a year for the books.

Key Growing Regions

100% Jackson Estates Grown in Sonoma and Napa Counties.

- Sonoma County mountain, ridge and hillside fruit brings the wine its black plum, cherry, currant and chocolate flavors.
- Napa County mountain and benchland vineyards add boysenberry, cedar and violet notes.

Winemaker Notes

"Black plum, boysenberry, and cherry flavors dance amongst the violet, chocolate and cedar notes. This wine is smooth and the tannins are refined and round. In true Merlot character, this wine caresses the mouth and lingers beyond each sip."

Randy Ullom, Winemaker

Statistical Information

Appellation: 85% Sonoma County and
15% Napa County

Composition: 90% Merlot
10% Cabernet Sauvignon

Barrel Aging: 14 months aging in 85% French
(23% new) and 15% American oak

Alcohol: 14.5%

T.A.: 0.57 g/100 ml

pH: 3.57

