

Estate expression • Elevated vineyards • Rare

Our Highland Estates wines showcase our estate properties located on mountains, ridges, hillsides and benchlands in cool coastal California vineyards. These limited production, highly allocated wines are critically acclaimed and rare. This series is all about *terroir*. Each label has a pictorial representation of the estate vineyard from which the fruit was sourced. The combination of soil, elevation and climate on each estate is a key contributor to the wine's powerful style.

## TAYLOR PEAK

2003 MERLOT

BENNETT VALLEY

### ACCOLADES

**90-92 Points- Outstanding**

*"...outstanding... exhibits notes of coffee bean, mocha, white chocolate, black cherries, and currants. Ripe and rich, with abundant tannin... impeccably made..."* Robert M. Parker, Jr., *The Wine Advocate*, 12/19/05

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION

**Appellation:**

Bennett Valley

**Composition:**

100% Merlot

**Barrel Aging:**

18 months in 100% French oak (45% new) barrels.

**Cases Produced:** 512

**Alcohol:** 14.4

**TA:** .57 g/100 ml

**pH:** 3.61

### KEY POINTS

- Elevation:** 1200-1400 feet above sea level.
- Source:** Bennett Valley in Sonoma County, 100% Merlot.
- Clonal Selection:** "181" which produces low-yielding crop levels, powerful blue flavors and directional tannins. Pruned to the Guyot system on rootstocks 101-14, 110R and 113P.
- Soil:** Mix of rocky volcanic (Rhyolite and Andesite), metamorphic (Serpentine) and sedimentary (Sandstone) rock with dark brown to brown clay loams.
- Flavor Profile:** Rich and round, with ripe Santa Rosa plum, cooked cherries and chocolate flavors. Medium-bodied with a lingering finish.
- Climate:** Mornings of Petaluma Gap cool fog that push the limit of cool for Merlot, offset by warm nights in the mountain area elongate hang time.

