



MERITAGE
2003
VINTNER'S RESERVE®

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

For more than two decades, Kendall-Jackson has remained relentlessly committed to producing only the finest quality wines from grapes grown in California's cool coastal vineyards. We carefully match climates and soil types for each grape varietal, and then handcraft each vineyard lot throughout the entire winemaking process. Our proprietary approach to winemaking has earned us our world-renowned reputation for red wines that consistently exhibit intense layers of flavor with complexity and balance.

KEY POINTS

- "Meritage," pronounced like "heritage," is a combination of the words merit and heritage.
- Only Meritage Association members may use this terminology. The association was founded in 1988.
- Bordeaux-style blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc from several counties including Mendocino, Sonoma and Napa.
- Artisan winemaking techniques, such as cold soaking and extended maceration, were used to enhance and simultaneously, soften the tannins, deepen the color and intensify the flavors.
- Handcrafted in small individual lots throughout the winemaking process – boutique winery style, for flavor distinction.
- Sonoma County mountain and hillside vineyards add black cherry flavors and superb wine structure.
- Cool Mendocino benchland vineyards for roundness and deep spice notes.

TASTING NOTES

"Our first Vintner's Reserve Meritage release makes this all the more special. Flavors abound starting with espresso, dark chocolate, pomegranate and black cherry. The wine has a multi-layered, full mouthfeel with a medium finish. This wine screams for tri-tip!"

Randy Ullom, Winemaster

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Appellation:

California

Composition:

49% Cabernet Sauvignon
47% Merlot
4% Cabernet Franc

Key Growing Regions:

33% Mendocino County
32% Sonoma County
17% Lake County
11% Napa County
7% San Benito County

Alcohol: 13.5%

T.A.: 0.58g/100ml

pH: 3.59

