



MERLOT

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 wine-making has earned us our world-renowned reputation for red wines that consistently exhibit signature rich layers of flavor combined with delicate balance.

KEY POINTS

- 98.5% Merlot grapes are mixed with a splash of Cabernet Sauvignon for added backbone and complexity.
- Tri-County Appellation
 - Sonoma County mountain and hillside vineyards provide plum and black cherry flavors.
 - Cool Mendocino ridge vineyards add wild berry and anise notes.
 - Napa County mountain vineyards lend chocolate, currant and cedar undertones.
- Aged 15 months in French (72%) and American oak barrels for a wine that is strong and round.
- 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.



ACCOLADES

- Kendall-Jackson is the #3 Most Popular Merlot 17th Annual *Wine & Spirits* Restaurant Poll 2006
- 87 points - "...an upgrade in quality. It exhibits a dark ruby/purple color, pleasant mocha and berry fruit, medium body, and a clean, surprisingly complex finish." – Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s, *The Wine Advocate*, 12/05

TASTING NOTES

"Intense wild berry and mocha flavors are accented by black cherry, currant and anise notes. Well structured, yet subtle tannins create a luxuriously smooth mouthfeel followed by a complex, rich and elegant finish".

Randy Ullom, Winemaster

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Composition:

98.5% Merlot

1.5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation:

40% Sonoma County

39% Mendocino County

21% Napa County

Alcohol: 13.5%

T.A.: 0.58g/100ml

pH: 3.53

