

BARNETT VINEYARDS

Spring Mountain District

NAPA VALLEY

MERLOT Spring Mountain District 2009

Harvest Date:	October 11 th , 23 rd , 29 th , 2009
Grape Source:	Spring Mountain District
Blend:	89% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc
Aging:	22 months in French Oak Barrels 60% new and 40% once used
Alcohol:	14.1%
Total Production:	418 Cases
Release Date:	September 2011
Winemaker:	David Tate

Vintage Notes: Sourced from neighboring vineyards, our Spring Mountain Merlot captures the essence of mountain fruit. The 2009 vintage was near perfect for us atop Spring Mountain. The summer warmth brought about the vineyard growth in a very healthy way. Although slightly cooler than average the autumn was long, warm, and apart from a few sprinkles, steady and dry till we harvested. The yields were on the average side, but for us on our 35° slope down the mountain, and due to the wide degree of challenges on Spring Mountain, that still doesn't add up for a large quantity.

Winemaker Notes: The bulk of this Merlot came from higher elevations on Spring Mountain. Slower to ripen over the long autumn we did achieve perfect ripeness in the middle of October. The Cabernet Franc added for structure and spice was quicker to ripen and was the first fraction to be harvested. An average of 2-3 days of cold soaking aided in color and complex flavor extraction. This wine was aged for 22 months in small French oak barrels (approximately 60%).

Tasting Notes: The 2009 Merlot is deep in color in its youth, but amazingly open and fragrant. Rich black plum, ripe pomegranate and sweet chocolate abound on the nose. Less mineral driven than previous years, trace amounts of dusty earth match the light cinnamon sweetness. As per normal with our Merlot the mouthfeel of the wine is extremely rich, with more of the mineality apparent here, but still hiding under the dark raspberry fruit. The tannins are chalky and firmly present without being overbearing. This wonderful wine will age beautifully over the next 5-6 years (2016-2017).