

BARNETT VINEYARDS  
*Spring Mountain District*  
NAPA VALLEY

**MERLOT**  
**Spring Mountain District**  
**2003**

<b>Harvest Date:</b>	September 20 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> and October 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2003
<b>Grape Source:</b>	Spring Mountain District (York Creek, Spring Mountain and Barnett Vineyards)
<b>Blend:</b>	94% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon
<b>Aging:</b>	18 months in French Oak Barrels 50% new and 50% once used
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.1%
<b>Total Production:</b>	724 Cases
<b>Release Date:</b>	September 2005
<b>Winemaker:</b>	Nile Zacherle

**Vintage Notes:** The 2003 Season was a relatively normal year other than very high rainfall in April and nearly no frost days. The moderate to high temperatures throughout the growing season put the harvest dates spot on to the five-year average. As usual we had hang time a few weeks longer than the valley floor do to the cool temperatures at elevation.

**Winemaker Notes:** The 2003 Spring Mountain District Merlot is blend of Merlots from our Estate and from neighboring York Creek vineyards on Spring Mountain. The wine was aged for 12 months, blended with some Cabernet Sauvignon and then returned to barrels to marry before bottling. A total of 18 months in the barrel with 50% new French oak.

**Tasting Notes:** Aromas of red cherry, currant and violets followed by dark spices of clove, anise and sandalwood. The palate is firm and bold in the middle with fine tannins and mild acidity. Flavors of dark fruit and licorice followed by oak spice finish on the palate along with bittersweet chocolate. Best from 2005 to 2011 (8 years).