

STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

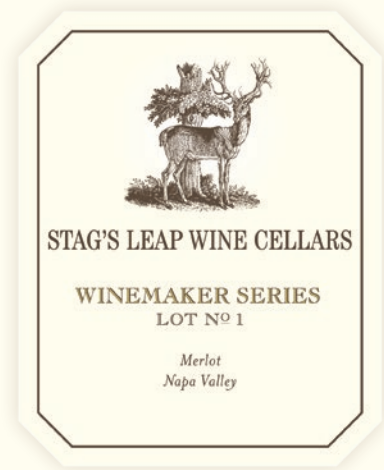
2011 WINEMAKER SERIES LOT 1 MERLOT

Crafted especially for our wine club members, the Winemaker Series allows us to select interesting lots and to create unique blends. This is like taking a walk through the vineyard, experiencing the unique characteristics that define Stag's Leap Wine Cellars' world-class vineyards. These wines often spend more time in barrel and offer a great juxtaposition to our classic Stag's Leap Wine Cellars offerings.

The 2011 Winemaker Series, Lot #1 Merlot uses a "yin and yang" approach by combining equal parts "Mountain-grown Merlot" with "Valley Floor Merlot" to create a truly spectacular Merlot. The mountain fruit is from Atlas Peak which is proving to be a great place for Merlot. The grapes get more hang-time, producing a fruit-forward and flashy style of Merlot. The rest of the grapes are from the Arcadia Vineyard which is on the valley floor with just a bit of slope and elevation. The Merlot from this vineyard tends to have a distinctly softer texture, rounder tannins and a pleasing floral note. The wine was aged for 18 months in French oak, but all the oak was previously used to ensure that the true varietal character was captured in this wine.

This medium-bodied Merlot is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. The wine opens with notes of blueberries, raspberries and violets with hints of baking spices. On the palate the wine has a very elegant texture with fine-grained tannins and a nice core of berries and red fruit. There is a sage note from the Atlas Peak Merlot.

Enjoy this vibrant Merlot with coffee-rubbed flank steak, Cioppino fish stew or Manchego or Petit Basque cheese.



HARVEST DATES:	<i>Oct. 10 – Oct. 25, 2011</i>
ALCOHOL:	<i>13.4%</i>
PH:	<i>3.49</i>
TITRATABLE ACIDITY:	<i>0.53 g / 100 mL</i>
BARREL AGING:	<i>18 months 100% previously filled French oak</i>
BLEND:	<i>97% Merlot 3% Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
APPELLATION:	<i>Napa Valley</i>
SUGGESTED RETAIL:	<i>\$60 per bottle</i>
RELEASE DATE:	<i>October 2014</i>
CASES:	<i>248</i>