

BARNETT VINEYARDS
Spring Mountain District
NAPA VALLEY

Merlot
Spring Mountain District
2012

Harvest Date:	October 16 th , and October 20 th , 2012
Grape Source:	Spring Mountain District
Blend:	92% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc
Aging:	22 months in French Oak Barrels 60% new and 40% a range of 2-4 year old
Alcohol:	14.5%
Total Production:	27 barrels
Release Date:	October 2014
Winemaker:	David Tate

Vintage Notes: The 2012 growing season was a warmer one, very reminiscent of 2007. Long hot summer days were matched by cool nights, which allowed the vines and grape bunches to grow at a steadily rapid rate. In autumn, the nights were much cooler, but the days were still warm with very little threat of rain. With these perfect fall days the grape flavors developed progressively, with the cool nights slowing down sugar accumulation. Each section of the Merlot sourced was picked at their individually perfect point of physiological ripeness. Sourced from a neighboring vineyard on Spring Mountain this beautiful Merlot is a great expression of low yielding mountain fruit.

Winemaker Notes: This Merlot comes from higher elevations on Spring Mountain. The 2012 vintage was not just a great growing season, but a bountiful one as well. The grapes were destemmed and whole berry fermented to allow for slow tannin extraction. The wine spent 22 months in French cooperage, 60% new. Months before bottling, during our assemblage tasting, we determined that 8% Cabernet Franc perfected the blend by adding more backbone and spice.

Tasting Notes:

The 2012 Spring Mountain Merlot is a deep dark purple, with the initial aromatics of crushed violets and dark plum mirroring the color. The nose also holds black cherry, graphite, and cinnamon. This is a very sumptuous Merlot, with a velvety mouthfeel. The palate holds the same fruit as the nose but with more coffee grounds and peppercorn spice. The moderately chalky tannins are balanced by the firm mountain acidity. This Merlot is already approachable, though tannic in its youth, but will age beautifully in the next 8-9 years (2022-2023).