



J & J CELLARS

2008 Merlot

VARIETIES:	100% Merlot
APPELLATION:	Paso Robles
VINEYARD:	San Miguel Estate
ALCOHOL:	13.1%
ACIDITY:	5.1 g/L
pH:	3.86
CASES PRODUCED:	298



ALC. 13.1% BY VOL.

2008 PASO ROBLES
MERLOT
298 CASES PRODUCED



GROWING CONDITIONS

The 2008 vintage in the Paso Robles region began with an average winter, which provided for a normal spring bud break around mid-March. An unexpected late spring frost interrupted the normal progression of the growing season and greatly reduced crops. The remainder of the season progress continued normally with warm days and cool nights. September and October brought slightly cooler than average temperatures slowing harvest. The reduced crop load and long hang time in the vineyard prior to harvest allowed the grapes to develop excellent concentrated, mature flavors which translated directly to the wines.

WINEMAKING

Our grapes were harvested in the cool early morning hours and brought to the winery where they were de-stemmed and crushed into a stainless steel fermentor. After 24 hours the must was inoculated and pumped over 2-3 times daily through the duration of primary fermentation. The grapes were pressed and upon completion of malolactic fermentation the wine was aged in a combination of French, American and Hungarian Oak, (57% new) for 15 months prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

This Merlot aromas and flavors of Bing cherries, black licorice, dried herbs, and a hint of chocolate, finishing with well-balanced tannins.

CELLARING

Enjoy now or cellar for several years.

FOOD SELECTION

This wine will pair nicely with a hearty meal such as pot roast and vegetables.

MEDALS