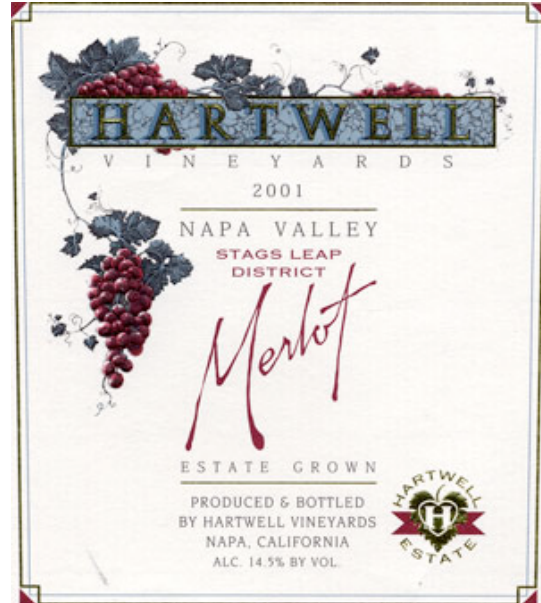




2001 Hartwell Estate Merlot Stags Leap District

The third release of Hartwell Estate Merlot **continues to confirm the affinity Bordeaux varietals have for Napa Valley, Stags Leap District.** The cooler growing conditions of this southeastern corner of the Napa Valley were accented in 2001 by ideal growing conditions, which delivered fruit of exceptional quality and richness. We blended a small amount of Estate Cabernet Sauvignon to the Merlot to enhance structure and age ability.

The wine has predominant aromas of ripe blueberry and raspberry, mingling with notes of dried sage, anise and acacia flower. The tannins are silky and supple, leading to a long, soft finish of spice and fruit, which will continue to gain complexity in the bottle.



Harvest dates: September 2001
Aging: 18 months in mainly French oak barrels
Blend: 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon
Produced: 550 cases
Release date: March 1, 2004