

HARTWELL

ESTATE



Merlot

NAPA VALLEY
STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

2005 HARTWELL ESTATE MERLOT STAGS LEAP DISTRICT, NAPA VALLEY

Starting with a late rainy spring that delayed flowering and gave us some concerns with the possibility of crop loss; the 2005 vintage was unusually late due to a cool weather front for most of the season with temperatures that averaged between 70-80°. Thankfully *Mother Nature* brought us a nearly perfect fall with plenty of sunshine and average temperatures allowing us to pick the fruit later in the season; this extended hang time has enhanced the flavor and color development of the grapes leading to a very exciting wine.

Rich and concentrated aromas of sweet cherry, plum, baking spices opening with mocha and coffee notes leading to a beautifully balanced elegant Merlot. The texture of the wine is polished and silky; making the wine accessible and enjoyable now, but it will gain complexity and evolve with 7 to 8 years of bottle age.

Appellation: Stags Leap District
Blend: 86% Merlot 14% Cab
Aging: Aged for 20 months in French oak barrels

Release Date: Spring 2008
Suggested Retail: \$75