

TRUCHARD VINEYARDS



1997 Merlot

- Vintage:** Ideal conditions throughout the spring of 1997 resulted in excellent berry set and a very large crop. Warmer summer temperatures steadily brought the fruit to maturity and led to an early harvest. Despite the larger yields and relatively quick ripening, this "record harvest" produced fruit of outstanding quality. 1997 wines show exceptional depth, intensity, and balance.
- Vineyard:** Merlot is harvested from five separate hillside locations on the Truchard Estate Vineyard. The differences in soil, exposure, and temperature at each site combine to produce a unique "micro-climate" for the grapes. As a result, the wines from these hillsides each have their own identity, and each contributes different characteristics to the final blend. The vines vary from 9 to 26 years old.
- Harvest:** September 5 - 23 • 24.4 °Brix • 3.45 pH • 7.0 g/l TA
- Winemaking:** All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed into fermenters, then inoculated with Pasteur Red yeast. Each fermentation was pumped-over twice daily, with the temperature peaking at 90° F. Maceration time varied from 12 to 31 days, depending on wine lot. The wine was aged for 20 months in small French Oak barrels (35% new). Each lot was raked every 4 months before being bottled in August of 1999. The final blend is 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc. This wine is very drinkable upon release, but has the intensity and structure to age for the next 10 - 15 years.
- Wine Analysis:** 14.2 % alcohol • 3.55 pH • 5.9 g/l TA
- Tasting Notes:** A deep nose of ripe plum, floral blackberry, and red currants; highlighted with cedar, chocolate, tobacco, and a touch of mint. The mouth is soft and rich - with a jammy core of plum, black cherry, blueberry, and sweet vanilla. Round, velvety tannins are layered throughout the palate, and provide a long spicy finish of dried red fruits.
- Release date:** February 1, 2000
- Cases Produced:** 3,313 cases
- Bottle Price:** \$30.00

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