



# Truchard Vineyards

## 2010 Merlot



**Vintage:** 2010 was a challenging vintage that produced outstanding wines. Despite a cool, wet, spring there was normal berry set with average yields. Cooler temperatures throughout summer slowly brought the fruit to maturity. However, extremely hot weather in late summer and heavy rains near the end of harvest significantly reduced the crop. In the end, 2010 produced balanced wines with intense aromas and flavors, beautiful structure, and high acidity.

**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 unique growing conditions 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 range from 14 - 36 years old. Cabernet Franc, grown in adjacent areas of the vineyard is added in to provide additional softness, structure, and complexity.

**Harvest:** October 1 - 12 • 24.7 °Brix • 3.39 pH • 6.8 g/L TA

**Winemaking:** All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed, 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 28 days depending on wine lot. The wine was aged for 20 months in French oak barrels (35% new). Rackings occurred every 4 months until bottling in August of 2012. The final blend is 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. This wine is drinkable upon release, but will gracefully age for the next 10 - 15 years.

**Wine Analysis:** 14.2% alcohol • 3.51 pH • 6.1 g/l TA

**Tasting Notes:** A complex nose wild blueberry, cherry, and pomegranate; with a touch of cedar, spice, and subtle mint. The mouth is smooth - layered with rich flavors of blackberry, plum jam, red currants, and sweet vanilla. Firm tannins fill the palate and provide an elegant finish of dried red fruits.

**Release Date:** September 1, 2013

**Cases Produced:** 1000 cases