

Oak Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 2009

Full bodied with beautiful ripe red fruit flavours of mulberries, blackcurrant, dark cherries and chassis, balanced by excellent freshness due to natural acidity, soft and elegant tannins. Fresh herbal note from the more generous use of Cabernet adds a lovely layer of complexity and delivers a wine with greater structure and longer ageing potential than previous vintages.

variety : Cabernet Sauvignon | 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 13% Petit Verdot

winery : Oak Valley

winemaker : Pieter Visser

wine of origin : Elgin

analysis : alc : 14.5 % vol rs : 1.7 g/l pH : 3.7 ta : 5.3 g/l va : 0.70 g/l

type : Red **style :** Dry **body :** Full **wooded**

pack : Bottle **size :** 750ml **closure :** Cork

ageing : Drinking beautifully now, but will age gracefully in bottle. Cellaring potential of 10+ years.

in the vineyard :

Yields in the mountain are ultra-low; Merlot averages 4 tonnes p/ha while the lower lying Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon yield above 6 tonnes p/ha. Canopy is opened in the bunch zone a week before harvest to avoid green flavours.

Aspect: South-west and north facing slopes

Elevation: 350-580m

Soil type: Medium texture gravelly soils with structured clay layer

Rootstock: R99, R110, Ruggeri 140

Planting date: 2000-2005

Ha planted 6.62 ha

Average tonnage: 4-6 tonnes p/ha

Irrigation: Drip irrigation, post-harvest irrigation mostly

Trellising: Extended Perold

Vines per ha: 2564-3333 vines/ha

about the harvest:

Grapes are harvested from three different sites, the valley vineyard, a north facing slope and south facing mountain vineyard. Yields in the mountain are ultra-low; Merlot averages 4 tonnes p/ha while the lower lying Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon yield above 6 tonnes p/ha. Canopy is opened in the bunch zone a week before harvest to avoid green flavours.

Harvest dates: 25 March - 1 April 2009

in the cellar : In the cellar, berries are individually hand sorted before cold maceration ensues for 5 days at 8°C. Cultivated yeast is added and fermentation occurs between 26-30°C. Three pump-overs and several punch-downs per day ensure gentle extraction of flavours from the skins. After fermentation, the wine undergoes another period of skin contact before pressing. Malolactic fermentation occurs in tank then the wine is matured for 16 months in 60% new French oak and the remainder 2nd fill.

