



## 1999 MERLOT STAGECOACH VINEYARD



Giddy Up! This Merlot is our first wine to come from the highly sought after Stagecoach Vineyard set high above the eastern hills of the valley. Carved out of rocky, red volcanic soil similar to the earth up at Oakville Ranch, this vineyard gives us the rich characteristics of mountain grown fruit. This wine is proof positive that we will never hang our hats on a wimpy, diluted and flavorless Merlot. Expect deep, rich earth and tobacco notes along with flavors of sweet blackberry, currant and cocoa nicely bundled and balanced on the palate with a lingering campfire finish of sweet oak and fruit.

<b>APPELLATION</b>	<i>100% Napa Valley 95% Merlot 5% Cabernet Sauvignon</i>	<b>ANALYSIS</b>	<i>Alcohol 13.8% pH 3.65 TA .54</i>
<b>HARVEST</b>	<i>September 30, 1999 Picked 24.6 Brix</i>	<b>PRODUCTION</b>	<i>1225 Cases</i>
<b>VINEYARD</b>	<i>Stagecoach Vineyard</i>	<b>BOTTLED</b>	<i>August 24, 2001</i>
<b>BARREL AGING</b>	<i>20 Months 40% New French Oak 20% New American Oak</i>	<b>NOTES</b>	
<b>RELEASE</b>	<i>January 1, 2002</i>	<i>A great value (suggested \$35. retail) and highly rated Merlot (91 points / Two Puffs from Connoisseur's Guide) beating out Paul Hobbs (89 points, \$75.) Merryvale Reserve (87 points, \$39.) and Niebaum Coppola (89 points, \$44.)</i>  <i>Rated 89 points in Wine Spectator Magazine</i>	

### H I S T O R Y

Founded in 1998 by Dave Miner, President of Oakville Ranch Vineyards, along with his wife Emily and his parents, Ed and Norma, Miner Family Vineyards produces small lot, hand crafted wines using fruit from Oakville Ranch, Ed and Norma's vineyard and other carefully selected California vineyards. We produce limited quantities of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Zinfandel, Sangiovese, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Viognier and Sauvignon Blanc using a combination of old world winemaking techniques and modern technology. The focus of our label is to produce high end, reserve style wines that reflect the unique characteristics of individual vineyards or "terroir" where specific varietals grow best.