



2008 Merlot Russian River Valley

The Vineyards:

Cecil De Loach has been farming the Russian River Valley for over 30 years and was among a small group of vintners that helped define this area as one of America's premier growing regions. This 2008 Merlot was made from vines grown at Cecil's Los Amigos Ranch, a vineyard set in the Chalk Hill district of the Russian River Valley.

The Winemaking:

Our hand-picked Merlot is gently de-stemmed and crushed to both closed and open-top fermentors. When the color, flavors and tannins are fully extracted from the skins, the wine is aged for a minimum of 17 months in both European and American oak. This Merlot is combined with 5% Cabernet Sauvignon from our adjoining vineyards to bring added structure and complexity.

The Wine:

Dense ripe berry notes highlight the flavor in this deeply rich crimson Merlot. A full mouth of blackberry and chocolate-raspberry with hints of spice, plum and tobacco lead to a lingering black cherry finish. Enjoy this Merlot with a number of dishes, including leg of lamb or any pasta with a tomato sauce.

Technical Information:

Harvested: September 8th - October 2th, 2008

Alcohol %: 14.5 **pH:** 3.28 **Total Acidity:** .67 **Case Production:** 914

Release Date: Fall 2010

Suggested Retail Price: \$24

Winemaker: Jason De Loach

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