



THE VINEYARDS:

Cecil De Loach has been farming the Russian River Valley for over 40 years and was among a small group of vintners that helped define this area as one of America's premier growing regions. This Merlot was made from vines grown at Cecil's Los Amigos Ranch, a vineyard in the Chalk Hill district of the Russian River Valley.

THE GROWING SEASON:

2013 was an exceptionally good year for growing grapes in the Russian River Valley. A gradual heat progression through the growing season, combined with an above average yield allowed the fruit to ripen slowly, ensuring maximum flavor development.

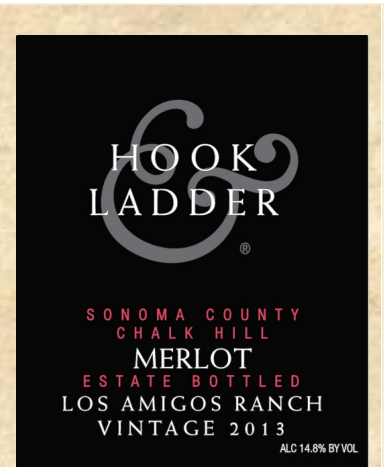
THE WINEMAKING:

Upon arriving from the vineyard, our Merlot is gently destemmed and crushed before being moved to tank to begin fermentation. During this process, we carefully return fermenting wine onto its own "cap" of grape skins to extract all of the color, flavors and tannins. We then press the remaining skins, and the resulting wine is aged for approximately 17 months in a combination of 20 hand-selected American and European oak barrels.

THE WINE:

Blackberry, cherry and raspberry with a hint of clove and cedar highlight the bouquet of this crimson, medium violet red Merlot. A complex palate of juicy raspberries, mixed spices, and dusty cocoa leads to a lingering cherry spice finish. Enjoy this wine with grilled leg of lamb, or a spicy tomato pasta dish.

Hook & Ladder Winery
2134 Olivet Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
t. 707.526.2255 f. 707.526.9193
www.hookandladderwinery.com



2013
MERLOT
LOS AMIGOS RANCH
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

HARVESTED
October 7-23 2013

ALCOHOL
14.8%

TA
.66

pH
3.38

CASES PRODUCED
308

AGING
European and
American Oak for 17
months

20% New Oak

ESTATE BOTTLED
July 10, 2015

WINEMAKER
Jason De Loach