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## 2002, MERLOT CENTRAL COAST

### WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES

Our 2002 Merlot boasts a complex bouquet of black cherry with accents of tobacco and spice. Supple flavors of plum, blackberry and dried cherry are at the core of a full, balanced palate. Integrated tannins and hints of mocha unfold into a smooth, lingering finish.

### WINEGROWING NOTES

To craft our 2002 Merlot, our winemaking team tapped vineyards in Santa Ynez Valley and Paso Robles, two synergistic appellations where reciprocating climates of warm-to-hot afternoons and cool, marine-influenced nights are optimal for the cultivation of ripe, full-bodied Merlot.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

Regular pumpovers during fermentation for gradual, balanced extraction of fruit flavors, color and tannins. Aged for 15 months in a combination of French (80%) and American (20%) oak for full maturation of flavor and textural profile. A balance of Cabernet Sauvignon added to the final blend for enhanced structure and complexity.

### CUISINE PAIRING

The juicy, supple flavors of our 2002 Merlot appeal to a broad range of full-flavored, medium-weight cuisine, including filet mignon, rack of lamb, and gourmet hamburgers, as well vegetarian pizza and pasta bolognese.

### FACTS

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| <b>name:</b>        | 2002, Merlot "Central Coast"           |
| <b>item number:</b> | 02MRvs                                 |
| <b>composition:</b> | 75 % Merlot<br>Cabernet Sauvignon 25 % |
| <b>alcohol:</b>     | 13.5 % by volume                       |
| <b>price:</b>       | See pricelist                          |

