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## 2002, MERLOT SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

### WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES

Our 2002 Merlot offers a luxurious bouquet of black cherry, nutmeg, and fine tobacco. The black cherry impression continues on the palate, along with vivid flavors of plum and juniper berry. Accents of clove and mocha accompany full tannins on a smooth, lingering finish.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

Our Merlot was harvested from the Firestone estate and select neighboring vineyards from October through early November. A slow-fermenting yeast was employed to ensure balanced extraction of flavor and color during fermentation. After aging, small lots of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec were added to the final blend for enhanced dimension and complexity.

### CUISINE PAIRING

Our 2002 Merlot is a great match for robust fare such as rack of lamb, prime rib, venison and rich, savory cheeses. It also pairs well with bittersweet chocolate.

### FACTS

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| <b>name:</b>        | 2002, Merlot "Santa Ynez Valley"  |
| <b>item number:</b> | 02MR  |
| <b>composition:</b> | Merlot 87 %<br>Cabernet Franc 8 %<br>Cabernet Sauvignon 4 %<br>Malbec 1 % |
| <b>alcohol:</b>     | 13.5 % by volume  |
| <b>price:</b>       | See pricelist   |

