

MURAM International AB
Nackagatan 27
SE-116 47 STOCKHOLM
Sweden

Telephone: +46-70-591 12 78
Fax: +46-8-714 57 50

E-mail: info@muram.com
Internet: www.muram.com



2003, MERLOT CENTRAL COAST

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES

Our 2003 Merlot begins with bright aromas of cherry and plum. A soft, round palate unfolds with flavors of cassis, black cherry and vanilla spice. A balanced finish shows long fruit, fine tannins and hints of dark coffee.

WINEGROWING NOTES

Our 2003 Merlot comes from vineyards in Paso Robles and Santa Ynez Valley. These premier Central Coast appellations boast reciprocating climates of warm afternoons and cool, marine-influenced nights--conditions that are optimal for the cultivation of ripe, full-bodied Merlot.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Regular pumpovers were employed during fermentation for balanced extraction of fruit flavors, color and tannins. After fermentation, the wine was then racked to a combination of French and American oak barrels, where it aged for 18 months. Contribution of Cabernet Sauvignon (5%) and Cabernet Franc (4%) brought added structure and complexity to the final blend.

CUISINE PAIRING

The fruity flavors and full body of our 2003 Merlot make an excellent match for a variety of medium-weight dishes, including roast beef, rack of lamb, grilled swordfish and vegetarian pizza.

FACTS

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| name: | 2003, Merlot "Central Coast" |
| item number: | 03MRvs |
| composition: | 91 % Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon 5 % Cabernet Franc 4 % |
| alcohol: | 13.5 % by volume |
| price: | See pricelist |

