

BRIDGEVIEW VINEYARDS "BLACK BEAUTY" MERLOT

VINEYARD

The weather in Southern Oregon is very warm through the grape growing season, making it quite suitable for Bordeaux style varietals like Merlot. While there are several uniquely different microclimates within Southern Oregon, it's the warmest sites that produce grapes with rich flavors and outstanding varietal characteristics. The grapes for our "Black Beauty" program come from our 100 acre vineyard in the Applegate Valley, where the grapes tend to be a little more "fruit forward" in style. This creates a wine that has upfront fruit characters, yet great complexity and body.

HARVEST

The 2006 growing season for Oregon was a bit of a struggle. A bitterly cold January, a much too warm March, and a very wet May were the start of a series of conditions that led to crop sizes that were roughly half of normal. When Mother Nature gives you only half your crop, she generally makes sure that the fruit you do have is terrific, as was the case in 2006. Summers in Southern Oregon are very warm, and the short crop allowed the grapes to mature about two weeks earlier than normal. Terrific weather during September and October allowed for additional hang time, which led to beautiful fruit, with nice levels of acidity. Harvest for Merlot began on October 21st. We are very pleased with the grapes from this vintage, we just wish there had been more of them!

FERMENTATION AND AGING

The grapes are fermented in open top tanks that allow us to punch down the cap up to 3 times daily. Once the wine is dry, the fermented grapes are pressed gently and the finished young wine is transferred to French oak barrels. After completing malolactic fermentation, the wine was aged for a total barrel time of 23 months. After bottling on Sept. 25, 2008 and an additional 12 months bottle aging, the wine was released in the Fall of 2009.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Dark fruit elements paired with a well-structured body lead to a solid finish, with spicy and toasty notes.

Varietal:	100% Merlot
Appellation:	Southern Oregon
Production:	654 cases
Final pH:	3.85
Alcohol:	13.5%

