



2014 IRONSTONE RESERVE MERITAGE



WINE DATA

Producer
Ironstone Vineyards

Region
Sierra Foothills, California

Country
United States

Wine Composition

82% Cabernet
Sauvignon,
10% Cabernet Franc,
8% Merlot

Alcohol
15.0%

Total Acidity
6.64 G/L

Residual Sugar
2.6 G/L

pH
3.81

DESCRIPTION

For the 2014 vintage, the Winemaker chose three of the noble Bordeaux grape varieties to be a part of this magnificent blend which is an exceptionally elegant full-bodied wine. Aromas of blackberry jam, cassis and cola layered by mint and white pepper are displayed. Luscious cooked berry fruit fills the mouth with hints of vanilla, and rich blackberry carries through to a smooth and well-rounded finish.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Located at 2,400 feet above sea level, these grapes were Estate-grown at Ironstone's Hay Station Ranch vineyard, where warm days are cooled by the evening mountain air. This area's unique soil of decomposed granite mixed with volcanic sediment and red clay produces a wonderful mineral component. The winery practices sustainable viticultural practices such as crop reduction, leaf removal, organic materials and drip irrigation to improve the quality of the grapes and intensity of flavors. Cover crops, which attract beneficial insects, are also employed, as well as the placement of owl and wood duck boxes around the vineyards and ponds to help preserve the surrounding habitats. After undergoing extended fermentation and maceration, the wine was transferred into small French and American oak barrels and aged in Ironstone's underground caverns for 20 months, to ensure a fuller, richer, finer wine. After aging, the varietals were blended together just before bottling and received additional bottle-aging prior to release.

SERVING HINTS

Serve at room temperature with simple dishes, such as coq au vin, roasted leg of lamb and braised beef brisket.