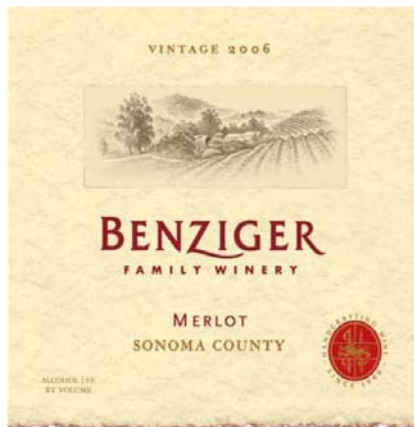


BENZIGER

FAMILY WINERY

2006 Merlot Sonoma County

Alcohol 14% | Total Acidity .57 | pH 3.51



Release Date | July 2009

Retail Price | \$19

TASTING NOTES | Our 2006 Sonoma County Merlot is supple and full-bodied with velvety texture and rich flavor. Aromas evoke connotations of dark fruit and pepper. Robust flavors of currant, black raspberry, anise and ripe plum linger on the palate.

VINTAGE | The 2006 vintage was truly a year won in the vineyard. A record 10-day heat spike in July had growers nervous about sunburn on the ripening grapes. Through meticulous management we tried to avoid leafing, and used the canopy to protect the grapes from direct sun exposure and high temperatures. This technique allowed the grapes to ripen more slowly and produce more concentrated flavors. Overall, this vintage produced excellent quality fruit, despite all the challenges.

WINEMAKING | Handpicked fruit for this Merlot came from mountain, hillside, benchland and valley floor vineyard sites from Sonoma County's Alexander Valley to the Carneros regions. Careful site selection ensures that only the best-suited and finest quality fruit are captured in every bottle of our Sonoma County Merlot.

BENZIGER FARMING PRACTICES | At Benziger Family Winery, we are dedicated to winemaking that reveals the true character of the vineyard, the varietal and the vintage in certified-sustainable, -organically grown and-Biodynamic® wines. Our wines are defined by the individuality of the vineyard and the passion of the people who make them. Through our commitment to natural farming and environmentally and socially responsible business practices, we strive for sustainability and the preservation of our Sonoma Mountain family winery for generations to come.

This wine was made with grapes grown with **certified sustainable** farming methods. Our sustainable philosophy promotes natural vineyard management, restoration of the land and biodiversity on the estate. We believe these practices result in wines that reflect the authentic flavors, aromas and character of the vineyard.