

# BENZIGER

FAMILY WINERY

2011 MERLOT  
SONOMA COUNTY  
Alcohol 14.5% | TA 5.5 | pH 3.81



**TASTING NOTES** | Our 2011 Sonoma County Merlot has inviting aromas of dark fruit and spice which translate well at first sip. Experience black raspberry, ripe plum and anise flavors that linger on the tongue as its velvety tannins come from behind to give this merlot a smooth, polished finish.

**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.

**VINTAGE** | 2011 was a very cool growing season, with late precipitation in June. Around mid-summer heavy rains came and allowed vines to increase vigor -creating lush full canopies. Long hang times allowed the fruit to develop evenly and created complex flavors and aromas.

**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 defined by individuality and the passion of the people who make them. This wine was made with grapes grown by **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.