



SBRAGIA

FAMILY VINEYARDS

2010 HOME RANCH MERLOT

“An impressive wine. Ed Sbragia wrestles that famously briary Dry Creek rusticity to the ground, forcing it into refined elegance.”

—Steve Heimoff, WINE ENTHUSIAST, June 2013



VINEYARD

Our Home Ranch Vineyard, which my family has farmed for decades, surrounds the family home at the southern end of Dry Creek Valley. The eight-acre Merlot vineyard sits on a flatland of Dry Creek Valley, an area that had a propensity to flood before the Dry Creek Dam was built. As a result, the soil features rocky clay loam components which contribute to great drainage in the vineyard, and vines that consistently produce richly concentrated Merlot grapes.

VINTAGE

Rainfall returned after three dry years, pushing bud break, flowering and fruit-set back by at least two weeks at the front end of the growing season. Fortunately, the cloud cover meant there was no frost damage in 2010. The summer brought cooler than normal temperatures, and this coupled with unexpected heat spikes in late summer resulted in a late and shortened harvest with lower yields. Cooler than average temperatures returned again in early September, giving way to a warm and consistent Indian summer - just the ticket, bringing good flavor and color development to grapes across the board.

WINEMAKING

The Home Ranch Merlot is made the way my Dad taught me: keep the barrels clean and topped, and the wine will take care of itself. This minimalist approach is particularly well-suited to the rustic quality of Merlot from Dry Creek Valley. The wine aged for 18 months in partially new/partially seasoned French Nevers oak barrels to impart brown spice aromas and flavors and supple tannins. We blended a small amount of Cabernet Franc for added aromatics and structure.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Warm, lush flavors of cherry liqueur are punctuated with notes of bright red currant and rhubarb in our 2010 Home Ranch Merlot. The wine has a rich mouth-feel without being ponderous, with notes of dark chocolate, vanilla and cinnamon spice and an intriguing note of pink peppercorn. The tannins are soft and supple and the wine carries a long, smooth finish.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Appellation: Dry Creek Valley

Harvest: October 21, 2010

Blend: 95% Merlot, 5% Cab Franc

Cooperage: 18 months in new & used French Oak barrels

Alcohol: 14.5%

TA: 6.45 g/L

pH: 3.6

Cases Produced: 3,024



Ed Sbragia

Adam Sbragia

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