



## 1998 Diamond Mountain Vineyard Merlot

### Technical Notes

Varietal: 89% Merlot,

11% Cabernet Sauvignon

Harvested: October 28th, 1998

Brix at Harvest: ° 26.2

Alcohol: 14.1%

Total Acidity: 69

pH: 3.79

Quantity Produced: 502 Cases

Release Date: September 1, 2000

Vineyards: 100% Diamond Mountain Vineyards,  
Napa Valley

" A mountain vineyard is the most beautiful site on earth " - Martin Ray

### The Vineyards

The 1998 Martin Ray Diamond Mountain Merlot comes from the spectacular Diamond Mountain, which rises 2500 feet from the Northwest Napa Valley. The vineyards nestle on a northeastern slope, where mornings are typically fog-free and brisk, with northwesterly winds continuing to cool the vineyards throughout the growing season. Volcanic soils, superior sun exposure and excellent drainage result in small, intense, full-flavored berries; producing some of Napa Valley's most sought-after Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

### Vintage Notes

The 1998 vintage had a very late start with weather remaining cool through April and May, creating delicate growth and late bloom in the vineyards. With a cooler than normal summer, many California vineyards were harvested later than usual. This longer "hang-time" allowed the grapes to develop additional depth and complexity.

### Winemakers Comment's

The exceptional grape growing conditions on Diamond Mountain are clearly showcased in the beautiful character and richness of this outstanding Merlot. On entry, an exquisite floral bouquet complements aromas of exotic almond and toasty oak. The palate is bright, silky and smooth, enhanced by a framework of rich, tantalizing fruit. The bright and lively palate follows through to a long, elegant and inspiring finish. The 1998 Martin Ray Diamond Mountain Merlot was made to age and will be enjoyed for many years to come.