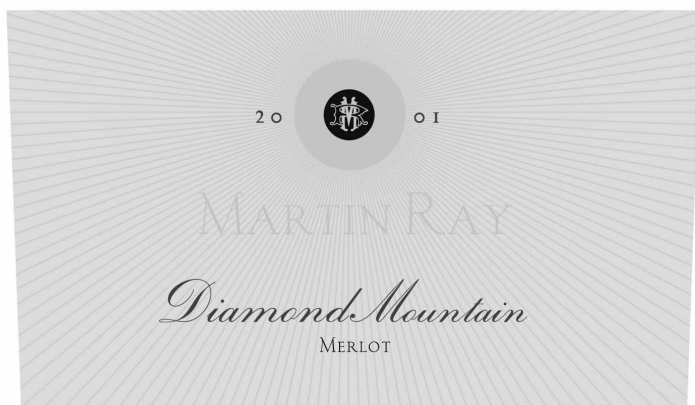


MARTIN RAY WINERY
2001 MERLOT
DIAMOND MOUNTAIN DISTRICT



TECHNICAL NOTES

Varietals: 79% Merlot

21% Cabernet Sauvignon

Harvest Dates: September 20–22, 2001

Brix at Harvest: 26.0°

Alcohol: 14.8%

Total Acidity: 0.65

pH: 3.42

Quantity Produced: 400 cases

“A mountain vineyard is the most beautiful site on earth.” —MARTIN RAY

THE VINEYARDS

The 2001 Martin Ray Diamond Mountain Merlot comes from the spectacular Diamond Mountain vineyard, which rises to 2200 feet above the Northwest Napa Valley floor. 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 Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2001 vintage in Napa Valley was a trying season for the vineyards, much unlike the normal moderate conditions of the region. With winter rainfall below normal, followed by the dry months of March and April, the soil had little moisture content and the grapes grew faint with the early heat. The chilly nights of April subjected the grapes to the worst frost damage in thirty years when temperatures plummeted into the 20’s. Hot summer weather persisted until June, when relief finally came with cooler than normal months of July, August and September. The extended hang-time in the cool months of September allowed the grapes to become extremely concentrated in color, tannin and flavor, and rich with varietal characteristics. With lower yields and intense berries, this was an extremely high quality vintage.

WINEMAKER’S NOTES

The winemaking methods used in creating our Merlot are the same as those perfected by the legendary Martin Ray over sixty years ago. Although labor intensive, these traditional techniques produce distinctly enhanced flavors and texture in our wines. The exceptional grape growing conditions on Diamond Mountain are clearly showcased in the beautiful character and richness of this outstanding Merlot. The wine begins with exquisite aromas of ripe cherries and overtones of creamy vanilla. The bright, lively palate is perfectly enhanced by a framework of rich, ripe tannins balanced with tantalizing cherry, plum and black currant fruit. The full flavors follow through to a long-lasting, elegant finish. The 2001 Martin Ray Diamond Mountain Merlot was made to age and will be enjoyed for many years to come.