

IRONSTONE

2008 MERLOT

Winemaker Notes

The Ironstone 2008 Merlot boasts a complex and heady bouquet of ripe plums, black cherries, and violets with an undertone of sweet wood and green peppercorn. On the palate, this vintage exudes rich fruit flavors of juicy cherries and currants with soft caramel highlights. This luscious, medium-bodied red has soft tannins with a rounded well-balanced finish.

Vineyard Notes

Merlot grapes, for this vintage, were grown in several of Lodi's sub-appellations as well as the Calaveras County growing region of the

Sierra Foothills. These different locations provide diverse soils and climate that, when combined, create a more complex wine than one region alone.

Sustainable Viticultural Practices

At Ironstone, we use crop reduction, leaf removal, organic materials, and drip irrigation to improve the quality and intensity of flavors. Cover crops, which attract beneficial insects, are also employed. In addition, we place owl and wood duck boxes around the vineyards and ponds helping to preserve the surrounding habitats.

Serving Suggestions

Our Merlot's softer, fruit-forward style has a broad appeal and goes well with a variety of dishes. It is a perfect wine that will pair with red meats as well as pork and chicken dishes. Try a roasted pork loin with fennel tomato sauce.

Technical Information

Appellation: California

Blend:
85% Merlot
15% Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol: 13.5%
TA: 5.9 grams/liter
pH: 3.54
RS: 0.25%

Aging:
9 months in French
and American oak

Released:
October 2009