



Harvested; Bottled

9/28/13; 6/3/15

Appellation

Fair Play

Varietal(s)

Merlot

Brix at Harvest

24.6

Quantity

150 Cases

Alcohol

14.2%

Estate Reserve Merlot

2013 Charles B. Mitchell Vineyards

Winemaker's Notes

Merlot has dark fruit flavors like Cabernet Sauvignon, but is generally a little rounder and softer, having a medium body with hints of berry, plum and currant. The Merlot berry is a dark blue, purple colored wine grape, commonly used as a blending grape and for varietal wines. The name Merlot is thought to derive from the Old French word for a young blackbird, merlot, a diminutive of merle, the blackbird (*Turdus merula*), probably from the color of the grape.

Merlot is a primary grape in Bordeaux wines and is the most widely planted varietal. As of 2014, Merlot was estimated to be the third most grown variety at 260,000 hectares (640,000 acres) globally.

This 2013 Charles B. Mitchell Estate Reserve Merlot brings flavors of blackberries, blueberries, cassis, dried cherries, tobacco and hints of toasted oak tannins. Age this wine at least 6 months.

Food Recommendations: Tender, milder cuts of beef, such as tenderloin, lamb, meaty fish, salmon, tuna, black olives, mushrooms, grilled foods, meats with warm spices.

Charles B. Mitchell Vineyards

Charles B. Mitchell has been producing award-winning wines in the Sierra Foothills for over 20 years. In the early 2000s, he purchased the original UC Davis test plot and started to carefully tend our grapes to create some of the area's premier Zinfandels. After discovering the true potential of the region, Charles was instrumental in creating the thirty-three square miles known as Fair Play into an established American Viticultural Area.