



2013 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY



HISTORY

The wines of La Jota have deep roots in Napa Valley. Back in 1888, winemaking pioneer W.S. Keyes planted some of the first vines on Howell Mountain, and 10 years later his contemporary, Fredrick Hess, built a stone winery and established La Jota Vineyard Co., named for its location on the Mexican parcel Rancho La Jota. Both men won medals for their Howell Mountain wines in the Paris Exposition of 1900.

Today, La Jota Vineyard Co. proudly carries on this great legacy with its small-production mountain Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. All La Jota wines are sourced from the winery's estate and from nearby W.S. Keyes Vineyard, and they capture the intense fruit and mineral complexity of these cool-climate origins.

VINEYARD

The La Jota Vineyard lies high upon a volcanic plateau, looking east over Napa Valley. Surrounded by pine, fir, oak and madrone trees, the estate stands out because of its cool, windswept climate and lean, volcanic soils. Grapes for our Merlot come from our Meadow blocks and provide the wine with a serious cocoa and chocolate character. We also source grapes for this wine from portions of the W.S. Keyes Vineyard, a mile down the road, where more hours of sunshine give this Merlot a pop of bright fruit character and broader tannins.

WINEMAKING

We hand-harvested grapes into small, 30-pound boxes to prevent crushing, and then we brought them to the winery for hand-sorting. After destemming and light crushing, the must was cold-soaked for gentle color, flavor and tannin extraction. Winemaker Chris Carpenter fermented the juice with native yeast in a combination of open- and closed-top stainless steel tanks. Following gentle basket press, the wine underwent in-barrel malolactic fermentation, rounding the acidity and integrating the vanilla character of French oak (80% new). The wine was barrel-aged for 19 months and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

The 2013 growing season was another near perfect year. With only a day or two approaching 100 degrees, temperatures were steady and in the sweet spot of 85°-95°F. Dry conditions throughout allowed for ideal maturation and flavor concentration. This 2013 La Jota Merlot has complex notes of mocha, plum, blackberry and a little charcoal on the palate. Subtle, fine minerality gives way to a great velvety mouthfeel that lingers through the sustained finish.

TECHNICAL NOTES

BLEND COMPOSITION

91% Merlot
5% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Petit Verdot

HARVEST DATES

October 10 to 26

FERMENTATION

Native Yeast Fermentation

MACERATION

20 Days

BARREL AGING

19 months in French oak
(80% new)

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

15.0%

WINE PH

3.53

WINE ACIDITY

.61g/100ml

VINEYARDS

La Jota Vineyard
W.S. Keyes Vineyard

