



2003 Block 21

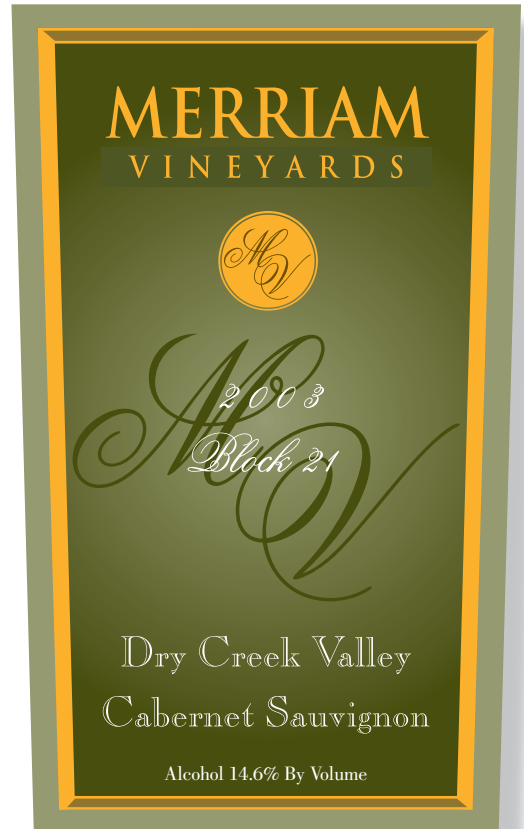
Dry Creek Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

This, our fourth offering from this small family winery, Merriam Vineyards' 2003 "Block 21" Dry Creek Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is produced from one small precisely-farmed block of Cabernet Sauvignon in the Dry Creek Valley. T.R. Passalacqua Vineyards overlooks most of the Dry Creek Valley from high above the valley floor. This elegant Cabernet Sauvignon from "Block 21" sits at the highest point on this 100 acre parcel. Special attention is given to reduce crop load in addition to a minimalistic approach to watering and a lot of T.L.C.

Vintners Peter and Diana Merriam began their love of wine by discovering the traditional wine-growing areas of France, notably the Bordeaux region where great Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon are produced. It is this love of the traditional approach to winemaking that drives the Merriam's production of their wines. The classic blending of a bit of Merlot enhances this beautiful wine. Its elegance and ageability are evident from entry through the finish.

Tasting Notes

Deep, dark and ruby in color with Bing cherry, eucalyptus, strawberry and cedar in the nose. Flavors of red berries, black cherry and bittersweet chocolate with a medium body. Abundant mouthfeel with no hard edges—bright acid, tannins with a slight toast of oak. A lasting finish of cassis, cedar and tobacco. Drink now, but will age gracefully for 5-8 years.



Technical Notes

Varietal Composition:

95% "Block 21" Cabernet Sauvignon
5% "Windacre" Merlot

Appellation: Dry Creek Valley

Alcohol: 14.6%

pH: 3.4

Brix (at harvest): 25.5°

Barrel Program: Aged 24 months

100% French oak barrels,
40% new, 60% 2-3 years old

Suggested retail price: \$35/bottle

Production: 565 cases