

Windacre

Russian River Valley
Merlot



From a
single vineyard...
a singular Merlot.

2003 *Windacre*

Sonoma County

Russian River Valley Merlot

Windacre Vineyard

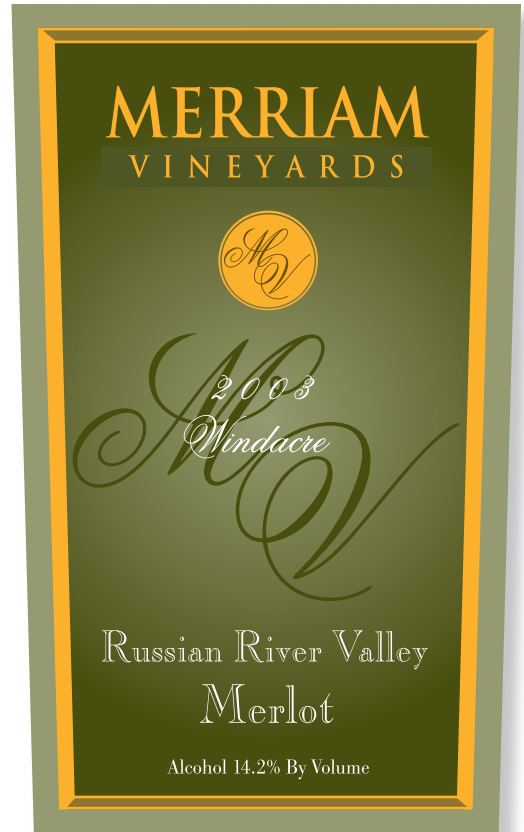
Windacre Vineyard is a single vineyard on the east edge of the Russian River Valley that experiences cool morning fog giving way to hot days and dropping temperatures in the evening. Windacre is a great Merlot grape growing vineyard, very similar in temperature and soil types to the Pomerol region of France where the most famous Merlots are made.

Windacre Vineyard awoke to spring as usual. Bud break had begun with a bang. The vineyard then in full bloom, when the unthinkable happened. Heavy rains and high winds severely damaged most of the crop. Nearly 75% of the vineyard's production was lost.

To our benefit, lighter crops produce better fruit. And to further ensure the best possible crop, we reduced it even more. All uneven ripened fruit was thinned cluster by cluster (Green Harvest).

Tasting Notes

A powerful merlot with abundant raspberry and cherry fruit in the bouquet and continuing onto the palate. Pleasing to the eye with its rich ruby color, the 2003 "Windacre" merlot shows off its blend of cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon with aromas of violets, black cherry, cedar and rich chocolate. Upon tasting, flavors of ripe cherry and red berries are enhanced by hints of eucalyptus and spice. The wine's beautiful mouthfeel gives way to a long fruit finish with lingering cedar and tobacco. Aging potential 6-10 years.



Technical Notes

Varietal Composition:

95% "Windacre" Merlot
3% Cabernet Franc
2% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation: Russian River Valley

Alcohol: 14.2%

pH: 3.50

Brix (at harvest): 25.4°

Barrel Program:

100% French oak barrels,
50% new, 50% 2-3 years old

Suggested retail price: \$30/bottle

Production: 390 cases