



2018 RESERVE MERLOT

250 CASES PRODUCED

About Kaena Wine Company

Kaena was launched in 2001 to showcase owner and winemaker Mikael's deep passion for winemaking, especially using his favorite varietal Grenache. Mikael who is part Hawaiian and raised on the Oahu shores, uses a shortened version of his given name for the brand - Kaena - which means "potential for greatness". That "greatness" is evident in the wines - in 2006 Wine Spectator named Mikael one of the top 10 new Rhone producers. Known affectionately by his peers and fans as The Grenache King - Kaena produces 5000 cases of Rhone & other varietals with an emphasis on Grenache.

Vineyard

- Estelle Vineyard, Los Olivos District

Winemaking

Grapes were destemmed and cold soaked for 5 days prior to native yeast fermentation. The wine was aged for 36 months sur lie in 30% new AP John American oak prior to bottling. The end result is a rich, elegant wine that will age beautifully for years to come.

Tasting Notes

Merlot has truly become one of my favorite wines to make and drink. I liken it to George Clooney as an actor. Good looking, debonair, well dressed, works well with others and gets better with age. This Merlot was sourced from Estelle Vineyard which is located in the eastern portion of the Santa Ynez Valley providing great warmth and rocky alluvial soils, perfect for growing world-class Merlot.

Exotic aromas of sandalwood, vanilla, cherry, blackberry and plum, along with earth, nutmeg and chocolate. In the mouth juicy flavors of plum, black cherry and blackberry give way to a rich core packed with sweet oak, vanilla, chocolate and suede. The finish is long and smooth with well-balanced tannins that last.

