



STERLING

VINTNER'S COLLECTION™

2013 MERITAGE

Sterling Vineyards wines express true varietal character—that set of aromas and flavors a grape variety develops when grown in the terroir that suits it best. Carefully selected winemaking methods highlight each wine's unique personality and guarantee the high quality that distinguishes our reputation. Sterling Vintner's Collection offers hand-crafted, approachable selections sourced from diverse terroirs and priced to be enjoyed every day.

VINTAGE

With near ideal conditions throughout the growing season, 2013 was another generous vintage for both vintners and growers. It began with a warm and dry spring, followed by moderate temperatures through summer. Harvest was remarkably smooth without any major frost events or heat spikes. Across the board, the fruit showed great balance, complexity, and varietal intensity.

VINEYARD

We sourced our fruit from several vineyards throughout the Central Coast known for the temperate weather and long growing season. The largest portion comes from San Lucas Valley, which is nestled against the foothills of southern Monterey County. Here, steady coastal breezes frame warm, sunny days, encouraging ripe fruit and big, dynamic tannins. Paso Robles, with its large diurnal temperatures swings, produces bold, berry flavors with spicy highlights. From Paicines, in east Monterey County, we get a rugged, brambly character that completes the profile.

WINEMAKING

“Big Bordeaux varietals require taming and care to make sure the bold fruit and big tannins are properly managed – from harvest through aging,” says Winemaker Monica Belavic. In the vineyard, we began by walking the rows each day, looking for perfect flavor and tannin ripeness before picking. During fermentation, we used frequent pump-overs to allow optimal extraction from grape skins. We then aged the wine for 10 months with American and French oak to allow the flavors and texture to come into balance.

TASTING NOTES

A ‘whole greater than the sum of its parts,’ our 2013 Meritage is the result of the special synergy that is formed when everything comes together perfectly – in this case: Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Layers of dark fruit, cassis, leather and rich earth weave together to create a complex and juicy wine. Ripe tannins and oak aging lend depth and texture, highlighted by vanilla and mocha spice. Balanced flavors and a long, lifted finish make this a perfect wine to enjoy with food. Pair with anything from herb-roasted chicken to grilled steaks and hearty pastas.

SOURCING:

Central Coast

VARIETAL COMPOSITION:

56% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon,
6% Malbec, 3% Petit Verdot,
9% Cabernet Franc

VINIFICATION:

10 months
60% American oak
40% French oak

ANALYSIS:

Alc: 13.9%
TA: 5.8 g/L
pH: 3.5