

TOLOSA

Estate Bottled Wine

2004 Estate Grown TOLOSA Merlot

Varietal Composition:	100% Merlot
Appellation:	Edna Valley
Production:	1011 cases
Suggested Retail Price:	\$20.00

Vineyard Information

Tolosa has two small plantings of Merlot in the estate vineyards: 7 acres on a rocky hilltop on the southernmost edge, as well as 14 acres in a more sheltered canyon. In our cool climate, perfect for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, Merlot must struggle to obtain full ripeness, resulting in a highly structured, aristocratic wine.

Winemaking & Cellar Information

Our Merlot was harvested quite late in the season, destemmed, and crushed into fermentors. Some lots were punched down, while others were pumped over more aggressively during fermentation. After pressing, we aged the wine in a mixture of quality French and American oak cooperage. Final assemblage was made in early January of 2005, with the blend going back to 100% one year old French oak barrels for the home stretch of the 18-month barrel aging regime.

Analytical Information

Alcohol:	14.2%
T.A.:	5.78 g/L
pH:	3.54
Brix at Harvest	23.7 – 25.2

Tasting Notes

Bay leaf, cocoa, and plum reveal themselves first, followed by cassis, tobacco, and mint. On the palate, this is a big, generous wine. The tannins are youthful, and will handle grilled steak, game, and pungent cheeses with aplomb. This is a Merlot that will gracefully endure several years' cellaring, becoming more vinous and nuanced with age.

