



*Norma Jeane*TM

Winemaker Notes

This being the 21st Norma Jeane, we wanted to make it the transition from a very young Merlot to one that is showing more of the signs of sophistication and confidence of someone reaching 21. The wine's color immediately impresses with rich dark purple hues. There is a wonderful complexity of aromas with raspberries and red cherries and added hints of dark chocolate, nutmeg and earthy herbal characters. The flavors mimic the aromas with added hints of vanilla and well integrated toasted oak. There is good structure, medium plus body, and is very nicely balanced as it glides over the palate with a pleasing, clean finish.

The Vineyards

For only the second time, we've used Merlot from an area known as the 'Estrella Triangle' which is in the heart of the Paso Robles AVA. The vineyard is 18 years of age and is sustainably farmed. We blended in some Petite Sirah and Cabernet Sauvignon this year for added complexity and depth.

The Vintage

During the growing season, the Paso Robles AVA is typically sunny, with warm daytime temperatures. The temperatures drop nicely at night, and this offers the opportunity for great grape production. The harvest was 10 days later than the last few years which was more like a normal harvest. The Merlot was picked late September with the Petite Sirah and Cabernet Sauvignon harvested in early October ahead of the early fall rains.

Pairing

This Norma Jeane is a natural with pizza, paninis, and pasta.

Photograph

This photo is a classic pin-up of Marilyn Monroe from 1951. This was produced during the actress' transformation from the girl next door Norma Jeane Mortensen into international sex symbol Marilyn Monroe, a period documented by legendary photographer Bruno Bernard.



UPC: 852600004038



Grapes: Merlot, Petite Sirah, Cabernet Sauvignon
Appellation: Paso Robles AVA
Sugar: 0.23% Dry
pH: 3.66
Total Acid: 5.83 g/L
Alcohol: 13.5%