

ESTD 1872



NAPA VALLEY

LONG MEADOW RANCH



## 2014 MERLOT RUTHERFORD ESTATE NAPA VALLEY

**VINEYARD:** Rutherford Estate

**VARIETAL:** 100% Merlot

**ALCOHOL:** 13.5%

**MATURATION:** 18 months, 25% new French oak

**CASE PRODUCTION:** 380

**FOOD AFFINITIES:** Braised grass-fed beef short ribs, or brick-cooked chicken with herbs

### WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS:

"This garnet red beauty entices with bright fruit aromas of cherry, currants, and raspberry. Finer savory elements of earth, un-roasted coffee beans and melted milk chocolate evolve on the palate in a layered mouthfeel with sweet rounded tannins. Enjoy this star of the vineyard block that welcomes you in to our Rutherford Estate."

– Justin Carr

### GROWING SEASON:

One of the warmest and driest vintages on record, Napa Valley certainly experienced the effects of the drought. There was no frost during bud break which contributed to a strong, early set in the vineyard. Warm days and no rain allowed us to harvest a beautiful crop in early weeks of August.

### LONG MEADOW RANCH:

Owned by Ted, Laddie, and Christopher Hall, LMR employs an integrated, organic farming system, using simple, sustainable methods. Each part of the Ranch contributes to the health of the whole. Vineyards and wine making, olive orchards and olive oil making, cattle and horse breeding all work together in complementary fashion, as do the egg-laying poultry flock and the organic vegetable gardens. All crops are certified organic by California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) and are grown without the use of herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers.

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