

HOME RANCH MERLOT DRY CREEK VALLEY

Our Home Ranch Vineyard, which my family has farmed for decades, surrounds the family home at the southern end of Dry Creek Valley. The eight-acre Merlot vineyard sits on a flatland of Dry Creek Valley, an area that had a propensity to flood before the Dry Creek Dam was built. As a result, the soil features rocky clay loam components which contribute to great drainage in the vineyard, and vines that consistently produce richly concentrated Merlot grapes.

2010 HOME RANCH MERLOT

Rated 92 *Editor's Choice

Wine Enthusiast

An impressive wine. Ed Sbragia wrestles that famously briary Dry Creek rusticity to the ground, forcing it into refined elegance. With straightforward blackberry, cherry, mocha and cedar flavors, it's simply delicious for drinking now. —S. Heimoff

Rated 90

Wine Advocate #210

Another reasonably priced, outstanding offering is the 2010 Merlot Home Ranch, which includes small amounts of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Its deep ruby/purple color is accompanied by notes of white chocolate, mocha, black cherries and vanillin in a medium to full-bodied, lush, round, generously endowed style. Consume it over the next 5-6 years. –R. Parker Jr.

SILVER

Sonoma County Harvest Fair, 2013

SILVER

Winemaker Challenge, International Wine Competition, 2013

2009 HOME RANCH MERLOT

Rated 'The Best of Sonoma'

Wine Advocate

The 2009 Merlot Home Ranch is a juicy, up-front wine. This unpretentious wine is best enjoyed over the next few years, while the fruit retains its vibrancy. Dark red cherries, plums, sweet spices and flowers emerge on the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017. –A. Galloni

2008 HOME RANCH MERLOT

SILVER

Sonoma County Harvest Fair, 2010



Wine Advocate

It is everything a good Merlot should be. Round, luscious, heady, coffee-infused, black cherry and herbaceously-tinged mountain berry fruit notes are followed by a plump, medium-bodied, juicy, succulent wine. - R. Parker Jr.

Wine Spectator

Another excellent value is Sbragia's 2008 Merlot Home Ranch. A blend of 96% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, it is everything a good Merlot should be. Round, luscious, heady, coffee-infused, black cherry and herbaceously-tinged mountain berry fruit notes are followed by a plump, medium-bodied, juicy, succulent wine to drink over the next 4-5 years.

2007 HOME RANCH MERLOT

Stephen Tanzer

Redcurrant, cherry, cedar and tobacco on the expressive nose. Supple, broad and dry, with enticing cherry and tobacco flavors offering plenty of early appeal. Finishes with dusty tannins and good lingering sweetness. http://www.wineaccess.com/tanzer

2006 HOME RANCH MERLOT

Wine of the Day – 11/30/2009 *eRobertParker.com*

Rated 90

International Wine Cellar

Good medium-deep red. Plum, red currant, black cherry, tobacco and a whiff of truffle on the slightly syrupy nose. Soft, round and sweet; lovely plush merlot with expressive flavors of red currant, tobacco, graphite and mint. Finishes with very good breadth. –S. Tanzer http://www.wineaccess.com/tanzer

Wine Advocate

Readers looking for chocolaty berry fruit intermixed with mocha and toasty oak notes should check out the 2006 Merlot Home Ranch. This fairly priced, broad, flavorful, tasty Merlot offers considerable character if drunk over the next 7-8 years. -R. Parker Jr.

2005 HOME RANCH MERLOT

GOLD

Orange County Fair, 2008

Rated 91

Wine News

Attractive, delicate bouquet of violets, clove and baker's chocolate. Stylish and silky with black cherry and a note of vanilla extract. Red licorice emerges with well-integrated, fine-grain tannins.

International Wine Cellar

Good red-ruby. Musky aromas of currant, smoked meat and brown spices. Fat, broad and ripe but nicely dry, with a supple texture to the raspberry flavor. Finished with sweet tannins. Sbragia told me he plans to cut back on the percentage of new oak he uses for his top reds. – S. Tanzer



GOLD

Sonoma County Harvest Fair, 2008

Wineskinny.com

Lovely stuff, with delicate floral aromas accenting smooth black cherry and berry fruit, with dusty cocoa and appealing dried herbs that linger on the long finish. Ready to drink now and over the next three or four years.

