

Cima Collina

2004

MERLOT

CEDAR LANE VINEYARD

Arroyo Seco

The Cedar Lane Vineyard in Monterey's Arroyo Seco appellation offers a perfect example of why it is usually not a good idea to paint all appellations with the same brush. Arroyo Seco tends to be known as a warmer part of Monterey. But, if you find yourself in the mouth of the Arroyo Seco Valley, where Cedar Lane Vineyard lives, you will find yourself in a place that is an island of cool in the otherwise warm growing region. It also is a place where the early ripening Merlot is given time to slowly come to full maturity.

The Cedar Lane Vineyard is located on a very rocky piece of land that is an old river bench. Wind rushes through this opening to the Valley washing out the fog early in the day, but keeping the vineyard cool in the midst of sometimes intense sun.

This was the last vineyard harvested in 2004. We originally planned to put all these grapes into our Hilltop Red, but were taken by their unique character. So, we decided to make a small amount of 100% Merlot. We were rewarded for our curiosity.

Dark cherry fruit is at the core of this wine. But it's what surrounds the cherry core that we love. In the aroma and on the palate you'll find hints of vanilla, sweet herb, chamomile, and smoke. Fascinating notes of chaparral, rosemary and mint are stuffed in for more good measure. The mouthfeel is round, as Merlot should be. Only 48 cases were produced.

Appellation:
ARROYO SECO
MONTEREY

Vineyards
CEDAR LANE VINEYARD

Blend
100% MERLOT

Aging
14 MONTHS IN FRENCH
OAK BARRELS, 50% NEW

pH
3.45

TA
6.8

Alcohol
14.2%

Bottled
JANUARY 26, 2006

Production
48 CASES

Winemaker
ANNETTE HOFF

Suggested Retail Price
\$35

