



2007 Merlot Over and Play Dead

This is not a wimpy Merlot. In 1997, we decided to make our first Merlot. The only problem was that Brenda didn't like most Merlots. She found them rather thin and herbaceous. She called them "wimpy" wines... not normally a complement. Brenda's focus has always been on picking very ripe Merlot fruit to get the black and red fruits she loves, and to get soft and ripe tannins. From time to time, she will blend in small amounts of other varietals to flesh out the wine's body; the 2007 includes small amounts of Petit Verdot and Petite Sirah for this reason. Barrel aging for the Merlot Over has traditionally been in predominately used barrels to allow for maturation of the varietal fruit character, rather than for overt extractions of oak flavors and tannins.

2007 Vintage

Silver Medal • 2010 National Women's Wine Competition
Silver Medal • 2009 Pacific Rim International Wine Competition
Bronze Medals • 2010 SF Chronicle, 2009 CA State Fair & 2009 SF International Wine Competitions

2006 Vintage

GOLD MEDAL - 2009 SF Chronicle Wine Competition

2005 Vintage

GOLD MEDAL - 2008 San Francisco International Wine Competition
GOLD MEDAL - 2008 Los Angeles International Wine Competition



Brenda's Winemaking... Great fruit & cold beer

It's all about the fruit. For her Dog Series wines, Brenda has one goal in mind - create fruit-forward wines with varietally true aromatics, mid palette weight and flavor, and a full bodied and balanced finish. Over the years, Brenda has searched up and down California for vineyards that deliver the right quality of fruit for her wine style. The Central Coast appellation works perfectly for Brenda. The region stretches 250 miles along the coast of California, from San Francisco in the north to Santa Barbara in the south, averaging 25 miles wide. It is made up of numerous sub appellations - Paso Robles, Arroyo Grande, Monterey County, Livermore Valley - where Brenda sources her grapes. The beauty of these diverse regions is that they share the cooling influence of the Pacific Ocean. Brenda's travels always seem to have stops in beach towns for a cold beer at the local pub, which she claims are an equally important part of her winemaking!

Tasting Notes

Smoky, red cherry aromas lead into flavors of black currents and red berries. Medium bodied in weight, the pretty and bright fruit flavors are classic "Merlot" and lead into a well balanced finish with integrated ripe tannins.

Information

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| Vintage: | 2007 |
| Appellation: | Central Coast |
| % Merlot: | 90% |
| Alcohol: | 13.9% |
| Produced: | 5,486 cases |



Brenda and bulldog friend

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