



SWANSON
VINEYARDS

2005 MERLOT OAKVILLE

VINTAGE:

The 2005 growing season debuted with wet weather, followed by a moderately dry March. Ample rainfall extended well into spring, resulting in relatively late bloom and fruit set. Unseasonable precipitation in early June led to a fairly cool, pleasant summer, with very few heat spikes. Initially, there was a concern in September that cool weather and morning fog would not allow adequate time for a somewhat larger than normal crop to mature fully. However, a seemingly endless Indian summer, albeit later than usual, presented the conditions necessary to achieve optimum ripeness for our Oakville Cabernet. The long growing season encouraged the development of very ripe aromas and tannins at ideal sugar and acid levels.

VINEYARD:

The Swanson Oakville Merlot grapes are sourced from vineyards owned or controlled by the winery. Our Oakville Cross Road Estate vineyard, contributing Merlot and a touch of Syrah, is located mid-valley. The Schmidt Ranch vineyard is on a benchland adjacent to the Mayacamas Mountains on the western side of the valley, and provides Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon for the blend.

WINEMAKER NOTES:

The 2005 Swanson Oakville Merlot is an "iron fist in a velvet glove" wine, with the extract and power expected of its Oakville provenance, yet possessing the finesse, grace and complexity of a Right Bank Bordeaux. Smokey blackberry and black licorice aromas. Round, ripe and supple, with lingering thickness and fine-grained tannin on the palate, echoing very nicely the aforementioned aromas. While certainly drinkable today, this Merlot will continue to cellar nicely for 6 to 8 more years.

ORIGIN:

Oakville Cross Road Estate vineyard and Schmidt Ranch, Napa Valley

WINEMAKING:

Extended maceration, malolactic fermentation in barrel

HARVEST:

September 29 - October 25

AGING:

20 months in French and American oak barrels; 40% new

BRIX at HARVEST:

25.8.

BOTTLING:

April 9 - 23, 2007

ALCOHOL:

14.8%

RELEASE DATE:

September 2008

MERLOT 375 ML SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICING: \$17.99

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