

SWANSON

VINEYARDS

2011 NAPA VALLEY CYGNET MERLOT

WINEMAKER NOTES:

Swanson's 2011 Cygnet Merlot is a NEW Swanson style, designed from the vineyard to bottle as a wine that is easily enjoyed on its own or as an accompaniment to a variety of foods. The wine has the freshness of just-crushed Merlot grape juice, yet exhibits the round ripeness, complexity, and texture that only come with aging in small barrels. Cygnet is plush and very inviting visually, aromatically, and on the palate. The color is deep ruby with a purple edge. The nose shows aromas of ultra-ripe black cherry and macerated blackberries, with notes of vanilla bean and spice cake. In the mouth very ripe blackberry and raspberry emerge around a core of silky tannin. The finish is balanced and lingering, with a touch of mocha. This Cygnet Merlot will continue to improve in the bottle, with optimum drinkability from 2014-2017. - Chris Phelps, Winemaker

VINEYARD:

Merlot: From our mid-valley Oakville Cross Road Estate, a small block in a vineyard adjacent to our estate, and a site on the flank of the Maycamas range in Oakville. Cabernet Sauvignon : Calistoga and Howell Mountain.

ABOUT SWANSON:

Established in 1985 by W. Clarke Swanson Jr., Swanson Vineyards is a natural extension of the family's historic contributions to the pleasures of the American table. While Swanson Foods introduced simplified meal preparation in the 1950s, Swanson Vineyards elevates cuisine with wines that marry the impeccable quality of Napa Valley fruit with the sensual character of old-world winemaking traditions. A family affair, Clarke remains at the helm today with his wife, Elizabeth and accomplished daughter, Alexis Swanson Traina, by his side.

They were one of the earliest producers of Napa Valley Merlot. Today, while its wines are extraordinary, the mission of Swanson Vineyards is straightforward: to celebrate the simple pleasures in life, made better with wine.

WINEMAKING:

78% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon

16 months in barrels: 70% American
30% French Oak

14.6% alcohol

BOTTLING DATE:

April, 2013

