



SELENE

2009 MERLOT, FREDIANI VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY

- Release:** January 2012; 118 cases
- Varietal Composition:** 100% Merlot
- Vineyard:** Frediani Family Vineyard, Calistoga
- Vintage:** 2009 late spring rains brought good news and bad news. Good news, the third year of drought won't be as bad as it could have been. Bad news, fruit set in Merlot was very low, less than 1.5 tons/acre, with sad looking little clusters that were mostly stems with just a few berries here and there.
- Wine Making:** Double sorting at the crusher kept only the healthy berries and excluded the rest, including any stem "jacks". Mia chose an open-top fermentor and punch down cap management to beef up the extraction just a tad, then aged it for 18 months in 40% new French oak barrels.
- Tasting Notes:** Raspberry/blackberry, buttery strawberry shortcake, dark chocolate and coffee, sweet nutmeg and cinnamon spice, cedar, orange liquor, slight mincemeat. In the mouth the wine has very good impact and length of flavors. Tannins are impressive in depth and quality; this one could easily age for more than a decade.