

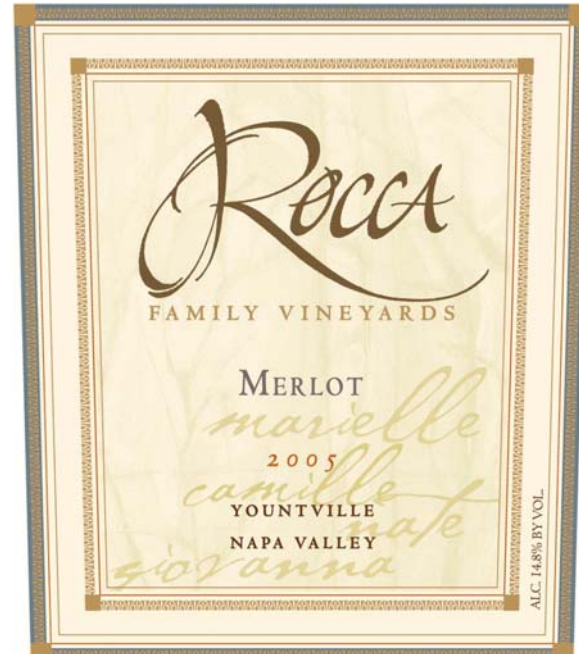


MERLOT 2005

YOUNTVILLE • NAPA VALLEY

GRIGSBY VINEYARD

The Rocca 2005 Merlot was produced from 100% estate grown fruit on our 21 acre Grigsby Vineyard, located at the northwest corner of the Silverado Trail and Yountville Crossroad in the heart of Napa Valley. The vineyard soil is a light clay-loam, sprinkled with tumbled, kiwi-sized river-rocks. With its proximity to the Stags Leap District, the vineyard receives cooling breezes from the San Pablo Bay on most afternoons. The vineyard is poised between the warmer up valley climes and the cooling maritime influence of the San Francisco Bay to the south, so temperatures during the long growing season are warm enough to produce perfectly ripe and flavorful fruit and cool enough to ensure finesse and balance. Just seven rows of the Rocca "Grigsby" Vineyard are devoted to Merlot, so we lavish extra care on this tiny but important part of our vineyard.



WINEMAKING

Our winemaker, **Celia Welch Masyczek**, works closely with Sergio Melgoza, our vineyard manager, as they both believe that the art of making great wine begins in the vineyard. When the fruit is completely ripe we carefully hand-harvest the clusters, then destem the grapes and transfer them to a tank for fermentation. The juice is fermented with the skins for about 12 days, then gently pressed and immediately pumped to French oak barrels, about 50% new, for malolactic fermentation and aging in oak. The wine was left in barrels for about sixteen months prior to bottling in early March 2007.

TASTING NOTES

Dark red cherry aromas lift from the glass immediately, and then are joined by cinnamon, anise and faint vanilla tones. The wine is bright with cherry and vanilla tones at entry with slightly deeper cocoa and spice adding complexity to the finish. Lighter in structure than the Cabernet. This Merlot is a lovely fruit-forward rendition of the variety.

Appellation:	Yountville, Napa Valley
Estate Vineyard:	Grigsby Vineyard
Ageing:	16 months in Oak barrels (50% new)
Bottling:	March 2007
Varietals:	95% Merlot 5 % Cabernet Sauvignon
Alcohol:	14.5%
Release Date:	June 2008
Cases Produced:	145
Suggested Retail:	\$45.00