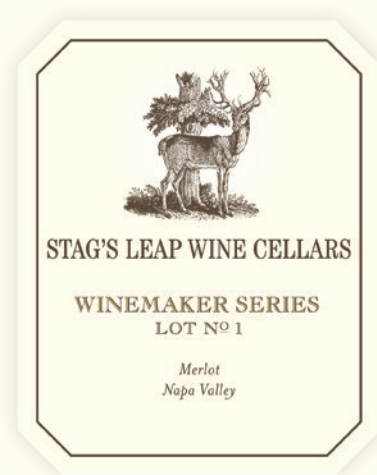


STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS

2009 WINEMAKER SERIES LOT 1 MERLOT

Crafted especially for our wine club members, the Winemaker Series allows Winemaker Nicki Pruss to select interesting lots and to create unique blends. "I love making the Winemaker Series wines as they give me a chance to take wine club members 'on a walk through the vineyard' to experience the unique characteristics that define Stag's Leap Wine Cellars' world-class vineyards," explains Nicki. "These wines often spend more time in barrel and offer a great juxtaposition to our classic Stag's Leap Wine Cellars offerings."

The 2009 Winemaker Series, Lot 1 Merlot is powerful, yet supple, as it is almost 92% Merlot from Atlas Peak and 8% Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. Not surprisingly, the aromas and flavors are reflective of mountain-grown fruit with rich red cherry/berry characters along with vanilla bean, floral and anise notes. On the palate the wine has ripe, smooth tannins on the entry with well-balanced acidity. The wine was aged for 24 months in French oak (12.7% new). Enjoy this vibrant Merlot with pan-seared duck breast with wild mushrooms or Osso Buco.



HARVEST DATES:	<i>Sept. 1 – Oct. 12, 2009</i>
ALCOHOL:	<i>13.5%</i>
pH:	<i>3.72</i>
TITRATABLE ACIDITY:	<i>0.54 g / 100 mL</i>
FERMENTATION:	<i>100% tank</i>
MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION:	<i>100%</i>
BARREL AGING:	<i>24 months 12.7% new French oak</i>
BLEND:	<i>91.7% Merlot 8.3% Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
APPELLATION:	<i>Napa Valley</i>
RELEASE DATE:	<i>September 2012</i>
CASES:	<i>254</i>

Nicki Pruss
WINEMAKER