

# MERRYVALE

## 2010 PINOT NOIR CARNEROS

### **Winemaking**

The grapes for this wine come from our Estate Vineyard on the historic Stanly Ranch, in the Napa area of Carneros, along with select vineyards in Carneros. Now fully mature, our estate vineyard was planted in 2001 with newly available clones that are transforming the quality and character of Carneros Pinot Noir into richer and darker wines. The grapes were handpicked and carefully sorted. The wine was aged for twelve months in French Oak and bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

### **Vintage**

The 2010 harvest in the Napa Valley was a difficult yet rewarding vintage with the coolest summer since 1972 continuing into the fall, resulting in some of the latest picking dates in memory. The extended hang time did increase complexity in the grapes, which were picked at moderate to slightly lower sugar levels. The results were outstanding white wines with bright acidity and wonderful aromatics, and red wines with dense color, concentration, and balance, all at moderate alcohol levels.

**Color:** dark ruby red with some violet notes, medium density.

**Aroma:** fresh dark red cherry, wild strawberry, black tea, cardamom, fresh earth, floral notes, and toasted marshmallow.

**Palate:** the entry is bright and focused leading to a round, generous mid-palate with moderately bright acidity, notes of cherry, cranberry, and a finish of lingering toasty oak.

VINEYARDS:	Merryvale Stanly Ranch Estate, Silverado Stanly Ranch
WINEMAKING:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▼ Hand sorted</li><li>▼ 5 days cold soak</li><li>▼ Gently punched down and pumped over</li><li>▼ 16 days on the skins</li><li>▼ 12 months in French Oak (44% new)</li><li>▼ Bottled unfinned and unfiltered</li></ul>
ALCOHOL:	13.5% by volume
RELEASE DATE:	Fall 2011