

ALIAS



W I N E R Y

2013 Merlot

Composition: 100% Merlot

ALC/VOL: 13.7%

Appellation: California

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Don't be a hater. Do you like Bordeaux wines? If Sideways told everyone to drink Zima, would you be following that lead? Merlot is beautiful if done right. Now I'm not going to defend the sweet, weak, fruit juice that was Merlot circa 1999, and maybe Merlot deserved to be woken up. What I will say is that most of the Merlot in Northern California is now good Merlot. (Most of the bad merlot has been grafted over to bad pinot noir). And 2013 was a great vintage for this beautiful grape. We make Merlot to be a welter-weight boxer, both powerful and elegant.

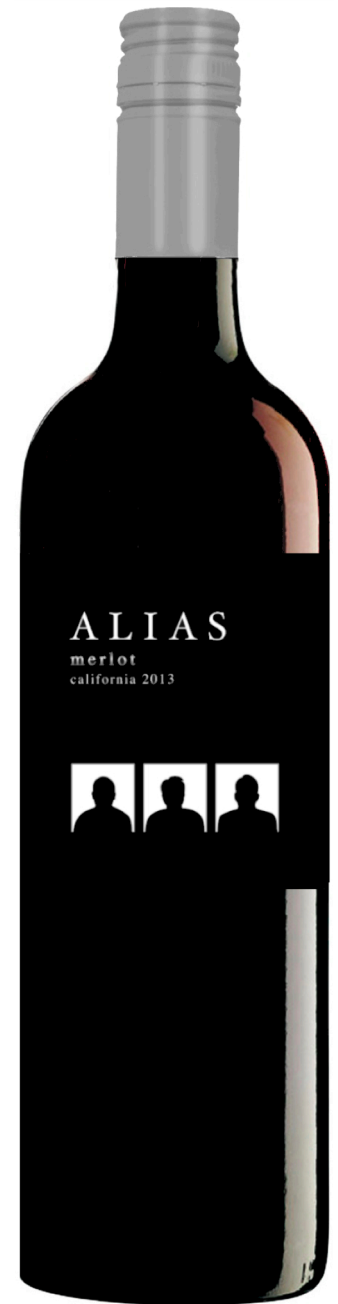
Nose: Earthy, floral, dried cherries, caramel, and molasses. It reminds me of one of those forager restaurants, where you might have a dessert made from fermented cherry seeds and pollen from iris flowers.

Mouth: I think this is the most complex and nuanced wine in the Alias portfolio. There is a lot going on, and it changes in the glass. It has big dark cherry, raspberry, and rhubarb fruit. Then there is an oak component that comes from 2 year old French barrels that I describe as fresh forest - a bit of earth, pine, moss, and wildflower. Rather than the darker sweetness that was in the nose, the wine has a different sweetness on the palate. It's more floral and wild. Kind of like orange blossom honey. Obviously, it's a really beautiful, interesting wine, or I should have stopped writing after the first bottle.

And don't let the Merlot name fool you. Merlot is not a thin wine. This bottle proves that Merlot is lush and velvety.

Enjoy slightly chilled and often,

Greg, *AKA Mr. Chow*



2012 Vintage
**Honestly, it sold out before
we submitted it.**

2013 Vintage
**Submitted, but not yet
rated**