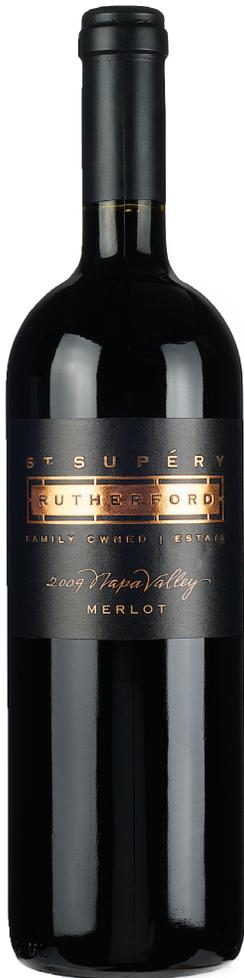


## 2009 Rutherford Estate Vineyard Merlot Napa Valley

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### *Winemaker's Notes:*

This wine comes entirely from our Rutherford Estate Vineyard surrounding the winery. This tremendous Merlot has a deep, rich purple hue. Blackberry, raspberry and dark cherry dominate the aromas with complimentary notes of anise, mocha and tightly knit vanillin oak. Dense blackberry fruit is laced with raspberry, dark chocolate and toasted oak. This is a wine of incredible structure, yet with a fine grain of tannin and a charming sense of style. Enjoy!

### *Growing Season:*

After several dry seasons, January 2009 started in similar fashion. February brought some storms, but the remainder of the year was short on rain. This was good for flavor development and also served to moderate the vine yields. After nice spring conditions, June brought average temperatures, while July really turned up the heat for 2 weeks, which was followed by some hot days in August. All of this led to wines with good structure and intensity.

### *Winemaking:*

The fruit was harvested in the cool morning hours, and then crushed to tank where fermentation commenced after a brief period of resting on skins. Warm fermentation temperatures were encouraged to achieve the desired color and structure for the wine before an extended maceration time on skins prior to final pressing. The wine was transferred directly to barrel for 22 months of maturation.

### *Rutherford Estate Vineyard:*

St. Supéry's Rutherford Estate Vineyard is on the "Rutherford Bench" of mineral-rich alluvial soils and sandy clay loam from the Mayacamas Mountains. Deep, well-drained soil allows the grapevine's root system to mine for nutrients and water, which yields complex and concentrated flavors in the fruit. Roughly 35 acres of our Rutherford Estate Vineyard are planted with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc – varietals perfectly suited for the climate and soils in Rutherford.

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<b>Appellation</b>	Rutherford, Napa Valley
<b>Vineyard:</b>	Rutherford Estate Vineyard
<b>Variety/Blend</b>	100% Merlot
<b>Oak Maturation</b>	Aged in 100% French oak (38% new oak) for 22 months
<b>pH</b>	3.49
<b>T. Acidity</b>	6.4 g/L
<b>Residual sugar</b>	Dry, <0.2%
<b>Alcohol</b>	15.3 %
<b>Harvest dates</b>	September 19 & 24, 2009
<b>Bottling date</b>	September 19, 2011
<b>Suggested Retail Price:</b>	\$50.00