

FRANCIS COPPOLA

DIAMOND COLLECTION

"We truly aspire to the highest quality in all we do, and nothing is more important to these goals than what we do in the wine industry. Our wine maker, Corey Beck, is the magician presiding over the great Francis Ford Coppola wines in Sonoma County."

—Francis Ford Coppola

2006 BLUE LABEL MERLOT

The 2006 vintage is special because it marks the first year we made our Diamond Collection wines at our new home in Sonoma County. The Coppola family purchased the Sonoma winery in March, making it possible for us to crush right here on the premises when harvest was upon us. Having our very own winemaking facility not only heightens the quality of our wines, it fills us with a sense of pride and accomplishment, and fulfills our longtime goal of being able to give our hallmark Diamond wines a home.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

With Merlot the objective is to create a wine that has structure and complexity, but soft, smooth tannins. We find that sourcing fruit from several different appellations works best to give us a Merlot which exudes multiple layers of flavors and a nice seductive texture. Grapes that come from Napa provide weight, sweet fruit flavors and the intense aromatics of fresh berries in our wine. Sonoma fruit contributes natural acidity to create more balance and finesse. Monterey County grapes provide concentration, which is the result of the well-drained sandy loam soils that characterize the region.

The 2006 growing season was long and cool, allowing the grapes to hang on the vine and mature longer. As a result, this Merlot delivers exceptional concentration and impressive length. To enrich the color, we blend in small amounts of Syrah and Petite Sirah. Then, the wine is aged in small French oak barrels, which lend lovely notes of sweet vanilla to this elegant, full-bodied Merlot.

TASTING PROFILE

Appearance Dark purple-red

Aromas Cherries, blueberries, dark chocolate

Flavors Plums, blackberries, currants, vanilla



Corey Beck, Winemaker



<i>Appellation</i>	California
<i>Blend</i>	92% Merlot, 6% Petite Sirah, 2% Syrah
<i>Alcohol</i>	13.66%
<i>Total Acid</i>	.56
<i>pH</i>	3.74
<i>Barrel Regimen</i>	14 months in French oak
<i>Released</i>	January 2008
<i>Suggested Retail</i>	\$18.00

