



THREE SAINTS

2002

MERLOT

Santa Ynez Valley

2002 THREE SAINTS MERLOT SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

VINTAGE NOTES

Relatively wet winter conditions followed by a cool spring led to a later than usual flowering period. Periodic heat spells throughout the summer provided ripe grapes, but it was patience that was necessary to allow these grapes to reach full physiological maturity before harvest. The harvested grapes show great balance and structure that should produce wines with excellent aging potential.

TASTING NOTES

Medium dark ruby. Deep, concentrated aromas of plum and black cherry with hints of anise and dark chocolate. This full bodied wine has seductive, ripe plum flavors accented by a firm structure with lots of stuffing. A wine with personality and potential for improvement.

THREE SAINTS WINES

After a ten year search throughout California, Jim and Mary Dierberg selected Santa Barbara County as an ideal area to produce world class wines. Three Saints wines are a vivid expression of carefully selected grapes from our vineyards which are located in three of Santa Barbara County's premiere grape growing regions: Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Maria Valley and Santa Rita Hills.

VINEYARD & WINEMAKING NOTES

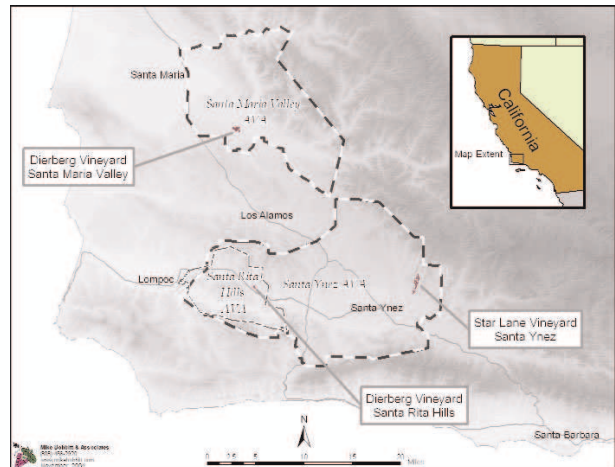
The grapes for the 2002 Three Saints Merlot come from our Star Lane Vineyard. Star Lane is located in the warmer, eastern end of the Santa Ynez Valley on the southern slope of Ranger Peak. Tucked away in a sheltered canyon, many of the plantings in Star Lane Vineyard is situated on steep hillsides that range from 900 to 1,500 feet in altitude.

There are five different Merlot clones planted in Star Lane Vineyard, this vintage contains grapes primarily from vineyard blocks planted to Clones I, 9 and 181.

After a three day cold soak, this wine was fermented using native yeast and spent a total of 28 days in contact with it's skins. Our 2002 Merlot spent twenty months in 40% new French Oak and was bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

FINISHED WINE

Alcohol:	14.2%
Total Acid:	.74
pH:	3.67
Production:	1250 cases



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