



STERLING

VINEYARDS®

Thank you for selecting our newest Library Selection. We are delighted to present you with two very exciting wines: the 1998 Three Palms Merlot and the 1997 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.

1998 Three Palms Merlot

The landmark Three Palms Vineyard, one-half mile southeast of Sterling Vineyards, is located on the outwash of Selby Creek where it spills out of the Dutch Henry Canyon and crosses Napa Valley's Silverado Trail. The unusually rocky soil of the vineyard is the heart of its unique microclimate. Following fermentation, the wines were pressed at the point when tannins were just beginning to express themselves, but before the harsh dry tannins evolved. The young wines were aged from 18 to 24 months in proportionately new, first and second vintage barrels. About half of the barrels were French oak, which lend cinnamon spice and vanillin elements to the blend. The other half were air-dried American oak barrels which provide maple brown sugar notes as well as subtle hints of toasted coconut and cocoa powder. The wines were lightly fined for further refinement and delicately filtered for stability.

When asked to describe this wine, Rob Hunter had this to say: *"Deep purple ruby in color, huge, dense fruit aromas of black cherries, blueberries, grape jam and purple-whip licorice. Enticing notes of toffee and spicy vanilla oak. Soft elegant cocoa powder tannins help corral this wine while fanning out across the palate with a lovely lengthy finish."*

1997 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Grapes for this vintage of Sterling Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon came from our Peterson Ranch on Diamond Mountain and from our estate vineyards in Calistoga, Rutherford and Oakville. Fermentation took place in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks. Malolactic fermentation was completed in large oak tanks, following by 12 months of aging in French and French-Coopered American oak barrels in caves located in the hillside below the winery. The wine was bottled in July of 1999.

When asked to describe this wine, winemaker Rob Hunter had this to say: *"Dense, deep inky ruby in color. Concentrated aromas of black cherry, plum, and black currants. Juicy, bright, soft chewy fruit with black berry flavors. Bittersweet chocolate mouth feel. Slightly chalky tannins with an elegant toasty oak finish."*



*Sip, savor
and enjoy
responsibly*

The Sterling Cellar Club package consists of: 1 - 750 ml 1998 Three Palms Merlot and 1 - 750 ml 1997 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. This special offer is available exclusively to our wine club members for \$100.00, a \$20.00 savings off the retail price.

Sterling Vineyards reserves the right to substitute a wine of equal or greater value at the offered price. For more information on these or any of our other wines please visit www.sterlingvineyards.com