



## Merlot

VINTAGE	2005
VINEYARD	Barnwood Vineyard
APPELLATION	Santa Barbara County
HARVEST DATES	9/9-9/18/2005
BRIX AT HARVEST	26°
ALCOHOL	13.9%
SUGGESTED RETAIL	\$20.00

### Lay of the Land

Nestled in Santa Barbara County's Cuyama Valley, Barnwood Vineyards offer an entirely unique soil and climate profile for the production of premium Bordeaux and Rhone varieties. At 3,200 feet above sea level, high desert temperatures are cooled by afternoon breezes that meander along the path of the dormant Cuyama riverbed.

During the growing season daily temperatures can fluctuate by as much as 50° F. This climate, combined with the well draining gravel and sandy loam soils, contributes to the intense character and flavors found in wines produced from our mountain estate.

### 2005 Harvest Details

2005 was a typical, mild summer with warm days and cool nights, typical of our 3,200 foot elevation mountain vineyard in Santa Barbara County. The weather throughout the 2005 growing season was mild, allowing the fruit flavors to develop slowly and ripen fully during an extended hang time. The grapes were hand picked and sorted, arriving at the winery in top condition with small berries and loose clusters.

### Cellar Report

Maximizing depth and structure is a key factor in producing this wine. This was done by starting with a long fermentation and by leaving the skins in contact with the juice for over 30 days. The Merlot was aged in a combination of French and American oak barrels for 13 months. TO give an additional boost of vigor and density to the wine, 40% of it was age in new oak barrels.

### End Result

On the nose, subtle hints of cooking spices and earth intertwine with plum and berry aromas. Persistent tannins and mineral qualities give balance, as chocolate and raspberry flavors smoothly caress the palate. An underlying suggestion of tobacco and a pleasing texture make this a very rounded, approachable wine.

Limited Release of 556 cases.

[www.Barnwoodwine.com](http://www.Barnwoodwine.com)

