

# PEDRONCELLI

2008

Merlot

**Bench Vineyards  
Dry Creek Valley  
Sonoma County**

## **Bench Vineyards Source**

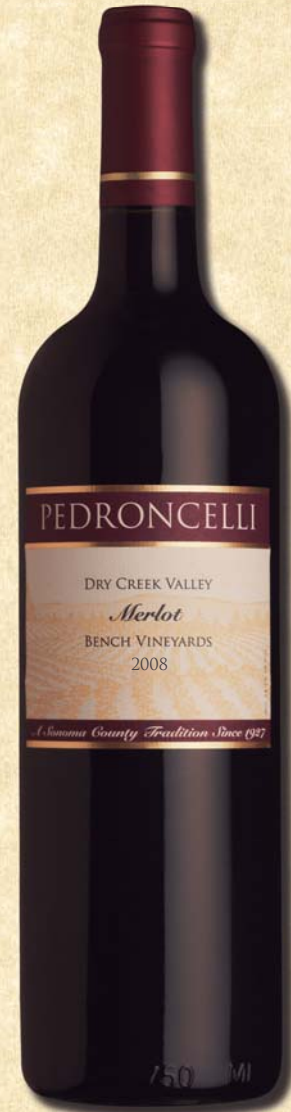
The source for our Bench Vineyards Merlot comes from selected blocks of our vineyard located in northern Dry Creek Valley, along Dry Creek Road west of the winery. The name chosen for this wine describes the natural terraces that flank the valley and rise gradually into the steep hills. Characterized by sloped topography and gravelly/rocky residual soils, the "Bench Vineyards" offer unique growing conditions that bring out the best in several Bordeaux varietals, including Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon.

## **Winemaking**

The warm and early 2008 harvest brought in mature fruit the first week of September with a high concentration of fruit flavors and aromas along with good acidity and smooth tannins. The grapes were crushed into stainless steel fermentors. The frequent pumping of juice over the skins (known as the 'cap') during fermentation gives the young wine a substantial increase of flavor and color. The young wine was aged in small American oak barrels for 12 months in order to develop smoothness and complexity. One third new oak barrels blended with seasoned barrels allows the fruit flavors to come forward while relying on a subtle backbone of oak components.

## **Tasting Notes**

Bouquet of black cherry, warm spice and plum. Flavors of black currant, freshly ground black pepper, and tart cherry highlight the taste. The subtle toasty oak complements the rich fruitiness in the mouth. Lush and full bodied, with medium tannins and a lasting finish. You can look forward to cellaring a bottle or two seeing how the wine will develop in 3-5 years or enjoy it for dinner tonight.



Appellation: Dry Creek Valley  
Barrel Aging: 12 months in  
American oak  
Alcohol: 14.3%  
pH: 3.63  
Total acidity: .600g/100ml

Pedroncelli Winery  
1220 Canyon Road • Geyserville • CA • 800-836-3894 • [www.pedroncelli.com](http://www.pedroncelli.com) • [service@pedroncelli.com](mailto:service@pedroncelli.com)

*A Sonoma County Tradition Since 1927*