

# PEDRONCELLI

*A Sonoma County Tradition Since 1927*

**2009  
Merlot  
Bench Vineyards  
Dry Creek Valley  
Sonoma County**

## **Bench Vineyards Source**

The source for our Bench Vineyards Merlot comes from selected blocks from our vineyard located in northern Dry Creek Valley, along Dry Creek Road east of the winery. Bench Vineyards, 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 unique growing conditions bring out the best in our Merlot.

## **Winemaking**

Grapes were harvested the last two weeks of September. Cooler temperatures than the previous harvest allowed a slow ripening which enhanced flavors along with soft and well integrated tannins. The grapes were crushed into temperature controlled stainless steel tanks. Daily pumpovers during the fermentation gives a substantial increase in flavor and color. The young wine was transferred to small American oak barrels to age for 10 months in order to develop smoothness and complexity giving it a subtle backbone of oak components.

## **Tasting Notes**

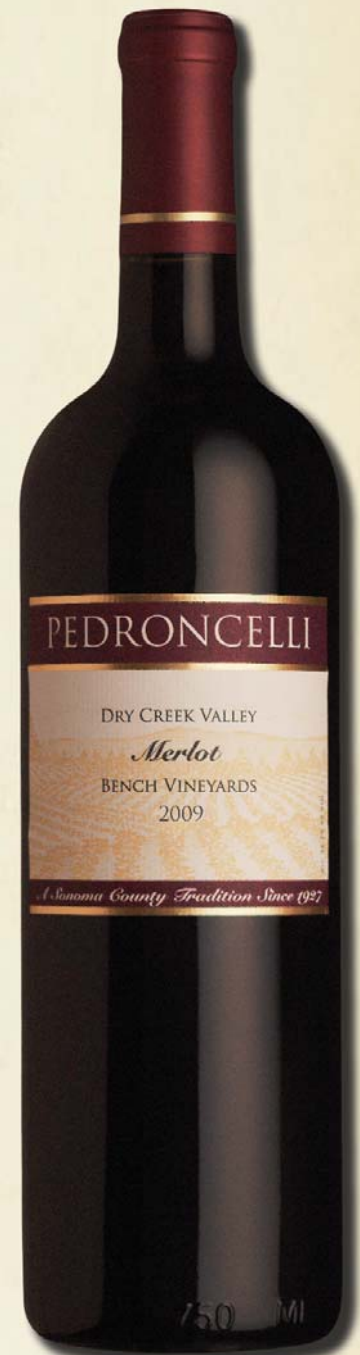
Bouquet of black cherry, warm spice and rich plum. Blackberry, red currant, and tea notes highlight the flavor. The subtle toasty oak complements the rich fruitiness in the mouth. Lush and full bodied, with soft tannins and a lasting finish.

## **Technical Information:**

Appellation: Dry Creek Valley

Aging: 10 months in American oak

Alcohol: 14.2% pH: 3.62 Total acidity: .600g/100ml



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