

2010 MERLOT RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY DAKINE VINEYARD



DaKine Vineyard, is our estate property. It is nestled at the bottom of an east-facing hill on Westside Road in Healdsburg. The vineyard's original owner obtained budwood from the famous "Three Palms" Merlot vineyard in Napa Valley and planted 6 acres on vines AXR1 and 5C rootstocks in 1988. In addition, $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of Malbec (clone1) was established on the same site. In 2005, Oded bought the property from Mondavi/Arrowood and began farming the grapes. This is sixth vintage Longboard made wine from these grapes.

"DaKine" (pronounced Dah-kine) comes from the Pidgin Hawaiian language and although the word could really mean anything - it is often used to describe something magnificent (as in: "Man, that Longboard wine you served last night was Dakine!").

Merlot has a long tradition as a wine blended into other (mostly Bordeaux) wines but relatively few are aware of the iconic wines it can produce when grown for quality. French estates such as Cheval Blanc and Ausone as well as California pioneers (such as Duckhorn) have championed this variety for generations. Our vineyard makes a wine that is balanced, naturally. We believe that the combination of 30 year-old vines and a micro-climate that is cooler than the surrounding valleys but warm enough to ripen the grapes every year, work together with our field blend of Merlot and Malbec to create our "little secret". The 2010 vintage was a bit on the cool side and very low on yield. The 2010 DaKine Merlot is lush with Black Currant, Violet and Blueberry aromas with that signature note we like to describe as ripe green olive. The generous mid-palate is full of sweet tasting tannins, ripe olive and dark chocolate flavors. As always, this is our favorite wine to pair with a rare filet mignon or a beef carpaccio.

Composition:	83.3 % Merlot, 16.7% Malbec
Source:	100% Dakine Vineyard
Harvest Date:	October 20th, 2010
Barrel ageing:	100% French Oak, 25% new.
Bottling Date:	December 2012
Production:	450 cases
Alcohol:	14.1 %

