

LONGBOARD

VINEYARDS

2012 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 of vines on AXR1 and 5C rootstocks in 1988. In addition, ¾ acre of Malbec (clone1) was established on the same site. In 2005, Oded bought the property from the Mondavi family and began farming the grapes. Oded named the vineyard "DaKine" (pronounced Dah-kine), a *Pidgin Hawaiian* expression that 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 to create our "little secret".

DaKine Merlot is lush with Black Currant, Violet and Blueberry aromas with that signature note we like to describe as ripe olive. The generous mid-palate is full of sweet-tasting tannins, and dark chocolate flavors. As always, this is our favorite wine to pair with a rare Filet Mignon or a beef carpaccio.

Technical Information

Composition:	86 % Merlot, 14% Malbec
Harvest Date:	October 22, 2012
Fermentation:	4 day cold soak,
Barrel ageing:	100% French Oak, 20% new.
Bottling Date:	April 2014
Production:	436 cases