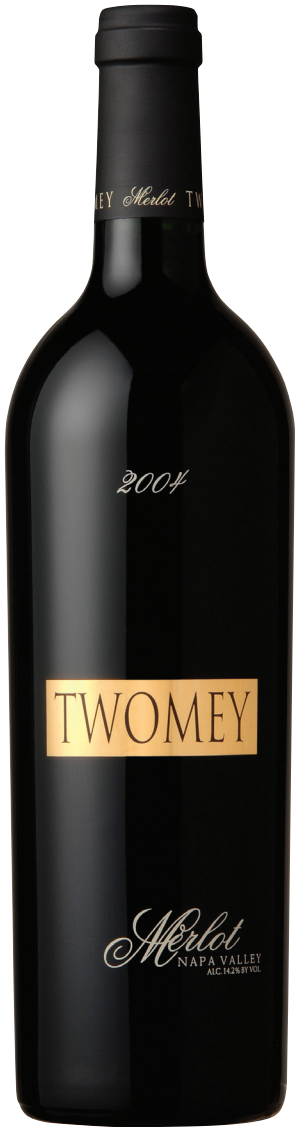


# TWOMEY

## 2004 NAPA VALLEY TWOMEY MERLOT



APPELLATION Napa Valley

COMPOSITION 94% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc

HARVEST DATE August 27 - September 7, 2004

BOTTLE SIZES 750 ml 1.5 L magnum  
3 L double magnum 6 L imperial

VITICULTURE Grapes for Twomey Cellars Merlot come exclusively from the Soda Canyon Ranch in southeastern Napa Valley. This vineyard's rolling hills of volcanic soils are tightly planted with French Merlot clones, selected for their low yield of small, intensely flavored berries. In this mild climate, tempered by cool breezes and morning fog, Merlot ripens slowly and develops rich black-fruit character and extraordinary complexity.

VINTAGE DESCRIPTION The 2004 growing season started out as one of the earliest on record. Warm weather in February induced early budbreak and vine growth; bloom and veraison also took place three weeks earlier than usual. Foggy conditions in late summer slowed ripening, which lengthened the growing season and allowed the fruit to attain full maturity.

BARREL AGING The wine was aged for 13 months in 65% new and 35% once-used French oak barrels with thin staves that allow gentle aeration.

SOUTIRAGE TRADITIONAL The wine was racked every three months using soutirage traditional, a process developed in Bordeaux over centuries of fine winemaking. This is a slow, labor-intensive method of decanting the wine from one barrel to another without the disruptive effect of pumping. This gentle handling preserves the wine's full aromatic intensity while achieving a crystal-clear brilliance and smooth, silky texture.

TASTING NOTES Our 2004 Twomey Merlot is an elegant, concentrated wine that balances delicacy and expression of fruit. It has a dark ruby color and a complex nose of black cherry, raspberry, violets and dark chocolate, with hints of lightly toasted bread. It offers multiple layers of cherry liqueur, toffee, chocolate and amaretto flavors, culminating in a long fruity finish. Given proper cellaring, this full-bodied Merlot will continue to give drinking pleasure until 2016.

RELEASE DAY October 1, 2007