



HILL FAMILY  
E S T A T E

## 2009 "*Beau Terre*" Vineyard Merlot

Production: 542 cases

Composition: 78% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot

Vineyards: 90% Beau Terre, 8% Red door and 2% Soda Canyon

Appellation: 46% Oak Knoll, 39% Carneros and 15% Atlas Peak

Elevations: 1200 ft and valley floor

Cooperage: 32% new French oak and 68% neutral French oak

Alcohol: 14.5%, TA 0.51, pH 3.76

Bottled: 7/21/11

Release date: January 2012

Release price: \$35.00

### **Vineyard Notes:**

The Beau Terre, Baker, and Red Door vineyards are centerpieces for Doug Hill's accumulated viticultural knowledge. From the row spacing to the trellising, the row direction and the clones selected, everything has been carefully thought out to give Merlot its best expression. Both the Rausetto clone with its great color and sophisticated tannin structure and the 181 clone with its plushy fruit, were selected for this Merlot. 2009 was a very cool growing year, with spring rains going late, and ripening proceeded slowly, with chilly foggy mornings and some sunny afternoons. We started to bring in Red Door and the Beau Terre Clone 181 in early October, with sugars in the mid 25's, then just before mid October, when almost 5 " of rain fell, we brought in the Clone 181 from Beau Terre, feeling like we had just dodged a bullet. The flavors were very concentrated in the tanks and reached good temperatures for extraction.

### **Winemaker Alison Doran's Tasting notes:**

**Nose)** A rich, explosive style, packed with layers of currant, blackberry, wild berry and black cherry fruit wove together in a tight way.

**Palate)** This Merlot has a plushy jammy texture, showing gentle boysenberry and black cherry fruit. Rich but balanced, the savory flavors are well organized and enthusiastic.