



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2011 “Beau Terre” Merlot

Production: 580 cases

Composition: 83% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Malbec & 2% Petit Verdot

Vineyards: Beau Terre, Baker & Red Door

Appellations: Oak Knoll, Atlas Peak & Carneros

Elevation: Valley Floor & Hillsides (1500 ft.)

Cooperage: 40% new oak (25% French Stavin, 75% Orion, Bossuet, Trust)

Alcohol: 14.8%, TA 0.55, pH 3.68

Bottling Date: 2/15/2013

Release Price: \$35.00

Release Date: Fall 2013

Hill Family Estate takes Merlot seriously, and they believe the Merlot grape has a lot to offer that Cabernet Sauvignon cannot quite achieve. 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 (40% of the blend) and the 181 clone with its plushy fruit (30%) were selected for this Merlot, along with the elegance of the Carneros Merlot (13%). Only 13% Cabernet Sauvignon was needed to add some muscle, even in this very difficult year, because the richness and aromas of the Merlot carried such weight themselves.

Winemaker Alison Doran’s tasting notes:

Aromas of sweet ripe fig followed by boysenberry jam and black cherry vanilla jump out of the glass. The palate has ripe berry fruit and an expansive rolling texture. Being an Oak Knoll vineyard in a cool year, the tannins are still in subtle evidence, lending a serious quality to the rich vanilla cherry flavors.