



### **Estate Collection 2009 – Merlot**

#### **VITICULTURE**

**Vineyard:** El Olivar, located near the town of Peralillo, Colchagua Valley. Sourced from Merlot blocks with an average age of 10 years.

**Soil:** Free draining, alluvial loam/clay of low fertility.

**Climate:** Yearly average rainfall of 600 mm, concentrated in the winter months. Summers are dry with warm days and cool nights. Temperatures are moderated alternately by sea breezes from the Pacific Ocean and inland winds from the Andes mountain range.

**Vineyard Management:** : Planting density of 3,623 vines/hectare, trained to vertical shoot positioned canopy and spur pruned. Canopy trimming was carried out once in early spring and again at the beginning summer. Leaf plucking was carried out by hand at the beginning of March in order to increase bunch exposure.

#### **WINEMAKING**

**Grape variety:** : Merlot 100%

**Harvest:** All fruit was hand harvested between the 30th of March and the 2nd of April, 2009.

**Winemaking Techniques:** The fruit was destemmed and crushed to tank with the fermentation being carried out by selected yeasts with temperatures peaking between 28°C and 30°C. Each tank was given 2 pump-overs daily during fermentation and received a 1 week post fermentation maceration before being pressed off followed by a natural malolactic fermentation in tank. This wine was then partly barrel aged (25%) with the remainder being matured in stainless steel. The blend was then assembled from tank and barrel components before being lightly filtered and bottled.

**Oak:** 25% of the blend was matured for 3 months in second and third use French barrels.

#### **LABORATORY ANALYSIS**

Alcohol:	14,5 %vol.
pH:	3,49
Titrateable Acidity:	4,90 g/L
Residual Sugar:	2,1 g/L
Volatile Acidity:	0,32 g/L

#### **TASTING NOTES**

Deep violet in colour, on the nose this wine exhibits classic Merlot notes of blackberry, cherry, plum and raisin and black cherry. In the mouth flavours of plum, cassis and chocolate, combined with a fresh acidity and soft tannins leading to a long, balanced finish.

**Serving temperature:** 17 to 18°C.

**CELLARING POTENTIAL** Ready to drink now or cellar for up to 3 years.