

# STEPHEN VINCENT

## MERLOT NORTH COAST 2013

RELEASE DATE  
MARCH 2016

Although winemaker Robert Goyette is a Pinot Noir and Chardonnay specialist, he is also incredibly adept at producing big, beautiful Merlot wines. Perhaps because Merlot is really a cool climate grape, much like the aforementioned varieties, or perhaps it's only because he's a damn, fine winemaker. Robert sources the grapes for his North Coast Merlot from select vineyards in Sonoma County and Lake County and blends the two to produce a wine with grace and structure. The combination of the black cherry from Sonoma and the bright red fruits from Lake County yield a wine of depth and complexity unlike many Merlot wines found in California. The addition of a little Cabernet Franc lends more mid-palate tannins and a lengthy finish. You'd be hard pressed to find someone who takes this varietal as seriously as he.

.On the nose, the wine exhibits aromas of cinnamon and spice, with notes of cedar and fresh cherry pie filling. On the palate, the wine is rich and layered. Flavors of cherries and pomegranate wrap around the tongue and lead to a dark and moderately tannic mid-palate, finishing with a jolly rancher note kept alive well into the finish on a seamless thread of acidity.

### PAIRINGS

This wine pairs best with a variety of meats and pastas. Try it with a spice rubbed pork tenderloin, chicken in Marinara sauce, or carnitas tacos with a spicy, red salsa.

**VARIETAL** 88% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc

**APPELLATION** 100% North Coast

**ALCOHOL** 13.6%

**PH** 3.66

**TA** 0.60 gm/100ml

**AGING** 15% in new American Oak, 85% in neutral oak barrels



*Robert Goyette*  
WINEMAKER