



Annabella Special Selection 2009 Napa Valley Merlot

100% Napa Valley (55% Pope Valley, 45% Oakville)

100% Merlot

Aged in French Oak for 14 months

This Napa Valley Merlot displays deep brick red color with a hint of purple-plum. The aromas of this wine open with ripe black cherry and a hint of dried plum, which then turns into a silky vanilla mid-palate intertwining the Cabernet-like tannin structure. Beyond the cherry vanilla core, the wine expresses dark chocolate and subtle coffee tones. The ultimate finish combines the balance of the cherry-plum fruit, structure from grape and oak tannins as well as plush vanilla, chocolate and coffee flavors.

This wine pairs well with gourmet burgers. Try one topped with seared Foie Gras. Otherwise, St. Louis style dry rubbed pork ribs make a nice pairing. Obviously, if you want a steak; this is a fine wine choice. Select a lean cut like Filet Mignon and serve topped with a wild mushroom sauté and a side of balsamic braised brussel sprouts. Drink now through 2015.