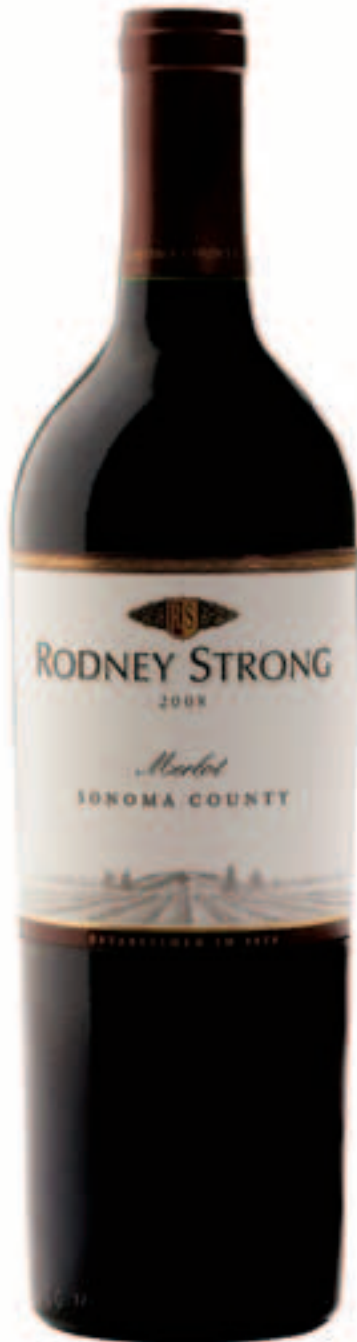




# RODNEY STRONG VINEYARDS



Sonoma County, California

## 2008 MERLOT SONOMA COUNTY

WINEMAKER	Rick Sayre
ALCOHOL	13.5%
TA	0.61gm/100ml
PH	3.60
APPELLATION	Sonoma County
CELLAR & FERMENTATION	24 months in French and American oak barrels

### HISTORY

At Rodney Strong Vineyards we've been growing merlot since the early 1970's, when Rod Strong first planted it in Geyserville, the heart of the Alexander Valley. Today we farm over 100 acres in the Alexander Valley and the northern portion of the Russian River Valley. Together, these areas display the bright, red fruit character of the Russian River with the deep dark fruit flavors and mature tannins of the warmer Alexander Valley.

### IN THE VINEYARDS

For the second year in a row, the 2008 vintage started off with a very dry spring, which typically produces smaller clusters, smaller berries, and less canopy overall. Frost visited many vineyards over several nights in April, further reducing potential yield. Then a hot spell engulfed the region in the middle of May, while grape clusters were flowering, again threatening to lower yields. The main growing season, however, was without incident, with warm to hot days and cool nights the rule. Picking commenced in typical early-autumn weather, and we harvested all of our merlot by mid October.

### TASTING NOTES

Plum and blueberry flavors with a touch of dried herb predominate in this soft, rich, mouth filling merlot, and are enhanced by aging in small oak barrels for a toasty, spicy vanilla character, and a lingering berry-cream finish. Drink this satisfying merlot over the next 2 to 4 years.

