

# CANDOR

## LOT 5 *Merlot*

### PHILOSOPHY

Candor wines are made to showcase classic varietal flavor. The concept is simple: make fresh, bright wines that exhibit youthful and vibrant flavors while also possessing the rich complexity of a more mature wine. The method to achieve this is to combine vintages. Candor Lot 5 is a blend of the 2011 and 2012 vintages from the Paso Robles and Santa Ynez Valley. By blending together wines from different vintages and regions, we have crafted a wine that clearly defines itself as Merlot.

### VINEYARDS

While there is no problem finding Merlot vineyards in California, finding the right locations to grow good Merlot can be a challenge. The winemaking team at Hope Family Wines has experience finding the right vineyards, as exhibited in their Liberty School wines. For the Candor project, they focused their efforts on signature Merlot vineyards. The Paso Robles vineyards exhibit ripe berry and plum-like flavors. A mature vineyard in the cooler temperatures of Santa Ynez Valley produces grapes with depth and character. All vineyards are family owned and operated with minimal manipulation, sustainable practices and low yields.

### WINEMAKING

Upon harvest, the grapes are cold soaked to enhance the fruit flavor and color extraction. Fermentation then takes place in stainless-steel tanks where extended pump-overs allow for further tannin and color extraction. Merlot lots are fermented separately before going into an assortment of French and American oak barrels. The 2011 portion of the blend was barrel aged 14 months and serves as the backbone of the wine, adding rich fruit flavors, complexity and structure. The 2012 wine adds youthful fruit expression. Final blending occurred in the spring, prior to bottling in August 2013.

### TASTING NOTES

Ruby in color with purple hues, the Candor Merlot Lot 5 opens with aromas of ripe black cherry and blackberry, with notes of cedar. The wine is full-bodied, with smooth tannins and a lively zing of acidity. Flavors of black plum mingle with cocoa, vanilla and a touch of earth that lead to a long and silky finish.

Varietal: Merlot  
Appellation: California  
Production: 3,239 case

pH: 3.69  
Total Alcohol: 0.66 g/100mL  
Alcohol: 14.5%



  
HOPE FAMILY WINES

P.O. Box 3260 Paso Robles, CA 93447  
805.238.6979 | [www.hopefamilywines.com](http://www.hopefamilywines.com)