

SANDHILL



CABERNET MERLOT 2005

SANDHILL ESTATE VINEYARD

39% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Cabernet Franc

GROWING CONDITIONS

2005 was an excellent vintage in spite of a slow start to the growing season. Spring in the Okanagan Valley was cool and wet resulting in poor fruit set and fewer berries per cluster. Then summer arrived with consistently warm temperatures throughout July and August, providing the perfect weather for good ripening. The vintage was back on track.

Cool temperatures throughout September and October allowed the fruit flavours to fully develop. As the decision when to harvest is equal partner to a great vintage, each crop was picked according to its own individual ripeness starting with Sauvignon Blanc in mid September and finishing with Cabernet Sauvignon in late October. With fewer berries per cluster, 2005 resulted in a juicy harvest and excellent quality wines.

WINEMAKING

- Harvested from October 6 - 30, 2005
- Loose crush, gentle but complete extraction of the fruit
- 5 day cold soak
- Warm fermentation
- Aged 16 months in American and French oak

FLAVOUR PROFILE

- Garnet colour with a complex bouquet of blackberry, plum and smoked cedar.
- A medium-bodied wine with drying tannins and flavours of red and black berries and a touch of smoke.
- Red berries and spice linger through on the finish.
- Pairs well with medium-rare beef tenderloin, venison burgers, rack of lamb and aged Canadian cheddar.

WINEMAKER NOTES

"The short crop of 2005 resulted in concentrated, flavourful wines. Increasing the amount of Cabernet Franc has produced a smoother, more fruit-forward Cabernet Merlot with a delicious nose. Drinkable now, however 3 or 4 years of bottle ageing will increase the enjoyment of this beautiful wine."

- Howard Soon, Winemaker

WINE ANALYSIS

Alcohol	14%
Dryness Code	0
Sugar	0g/litre
TA	6.23g/litre

Release Date	September 14, 2007
Cases Produced	3850
CSPC	576751

AWARDS

SILVER
2007 Okanagan Fall Wine Festival



A TRUE EXPRESSION OF THE VINEYARD

WWW.SANDHILLWINES.CA
1125 RICHTER STREET KELOWNA, BC CANADA V1Y 2K6 T 250-762-3332 F 250-762-2999
1000-1200 WEST 73RD AVENUE VANCOUVER, BC CANADA V6P 6G5 T 604-267-9463 F 604-264-6810
VQA OKANAGAN VALLEY VQA