

# McNEIL WINES / WINES THAT DELIVER

WINE  
2003 BLAIR ESTATE  
MERLOT

*Blair Estate*

## Vital Facts:

- ∞ Alcohol: 14.5%
- ∞ Total Acid: .58%
- ∞ pH: 3.65

## Winemaker's Comments:

Our first bottling for Blair Estate was a pure Merlot from the 1997 vintage. This third bottling of an individual varietal bottling is to showcase the attributes of each varietal and how they contribute to our main wine, the blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. A classic variety from St. Emillion, Bordeaux; Merlot is used in blends as well as stand alone bottlings. It has aromatic qualities of cherries and raspberries. The tannin structure is soft and velvety. This wine was aged for 16 months in new, small French Oak barrels. During this time it was "racked and returned" to barrel 3 times to incorporate air into the aging process, helping to soften the tannins. This wine is un-fined and un-filtered. Some natural tartrate precipitation can be found in the bottle so gentle decanting is recommended.