

2011 MERLOT  
*napa valley*

In 1983, Tony Peju bought thirty acres of vines in the famed Rutherford district of the Napa Valley. Since then, the Peju family has maintained a meticulous focus on the vineyard, which has grown to include a proactive approach to sustainability and environmental consciousness. That long-standing commitment and respect for the grapes can be tasted with each sip of these balanced and elegant wines. Still family-owned and operated with daughters Lisa and Ariana poised to take the helm, Peju Winery has become an integral piece of the Napa Valley landscape.

VINEYARD

Peju's Rutherford Estate is a California Certified Organic vineyard, and is planted primarily with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The winery's two additional properties, located in Pope Valley and Calistoga, are both sustainably farmed. At Persephone Ranch in Pope Valley, the climate is suited to grow Sauvignon Blanc, as well as Zinfandel, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Merlot. Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot are grown on the Wappo Vineyard in Calistoga. Drawing from such varied terroir, the wines exhibit the perfect blend of mountain-fruit focus and Rutherford complexity.

VINTAGE

2011 was a difficult, but rewarding year for the Napa Valley. Cooler than average temperatures along with more rainfall than normal presented myriad challenges to the vineyard team, but we finished with a successful harvest after several warm weeks in late October. This vintage ultimately yielded small quantities of beautifully balanced and intricate wines with lower alcohol levels.

TASTING

The 2011 vintage showcases Merlot's stylish and alluring characteristics with vivid flavors of plum and black currant. Hints of anise and vanilla on the nose open up to complex, integrated layers of raspberry, cherry and cocoa flavors that impart a striking impression on the palate.

APPELLATION  
*napa valley*

VINEYARD  
*rutherford estate, persephone,  
wappo*

COMPOSITION  
*94% merlot, 4% cabernet  
sauvignon, 1% petit verdot*

COOPERAGE  
*60% french oak and 40%  
american oak, 40% new*

AGING  
*23 months*

ALCOHOL  
*13.8%*

TA  
*5.8 g/l*

PH  
*3.63*

HARVEST DATE  
*october 2011*

BOTTLING DATE  
*february 2014*

RELEASE DATE  
*april 2014*

CELLARING  
*enjoy now through 2016*

SRP  
*\$35*