



<i>Vintage</i>	2008
<i>Varietals</i>	92% Merlot 7% Syrah 1% Cabernet Sauvignon
<i>Appellation</i>	Napa Valley
<i>Barrel Aging</i>	18 months in French oak
<i>Wine Stats</i>	Alcohol 13.6% pH 3.78 TA 5.53 g/l

Vintage

Napa Valley's 2008 growing season was dramatic, but resulted in excellent quality fruit with great flavor concentration. A very dry spring caused buds to emerge early and, thus, experience an extended frost in late March and early April, which significantly cut the crop. The early vine development was slowed down by a cool summer of consistent temperatures, and harvest began only slightly ahead of normal. A heat spell in late August sped up ripening suddenly, but cool fall temperatures that followed lengthened the harvest. This second consecutive dry growing season in the Napa Valley and the reduced crops resulted in vines yielding berries that showed great expression of their vineyards and rich, concentrated flavors.

Vineyards

Tony Coltrin accomplished a vibrant layering of flavors in our Oberon Merlot by sourcing grapes throughout the Napa Valley. Blending fruit from classic and emerging appellations allowed us to take advantage of different soil types and microclimates from around the valley. With the diversity of flavors, he created a well-rounded mouthful of wine.

Winemaking

To naturally soften tannins and enhance varietal complexity, we gave the wine 28 days of skin contact. We then pressed the wine and transferred it to French oak barrels to undergo a long malolactic fermentation for roundness and depth. Blending in the Cabernet Sauvignon added interesting nuances to the lush berry flavor profile of the Merlot.

35 Years of Napa Valley Roots

Napa Valley native and winemaker, Tony Coltrin, brings more than 35 years of winemaking experience to Oberon, with expertise in sourcing quality fruit from the best vineyards in the valley and understanding the region's uniqueness for growing classic Bordeaux varieties. His long-standing relationships with local growers ensure a consistency in the quality of the grapes grown in premier Napa Valley sub-appellations for Oberon.