

# Cycles GLADIATOR

Classic Wines For Classic Times™



## 2014 MERLOT

I have sooo been waiting for an opportunity to bottle the 2014 Merlot. I've been watching it evolve over time in the winery and think it's really turned into a little Merlot monster packed with everything you would expect from a nice, higher-priced wine. From my time in the vineyards until now, three days after bottling, I knew it would be very special. Virtually all of the Merlot grapes in this wine come from the Livermore Valley. I had the opportunity to drive up there multiple times a week to check on the grapes and work closely with our vineyard manager in making the right farming and picking decisions. The result is a lush, fruit-driven cherry bomb of a wine that should pair with pretty much anything you throw at it. Most people know that making good Merlot is a mission of mine and so I'm happy to be able to present something to you that I'm particularly proud of.

Youthful aromatics of fresh plum, blueberries, and brown sugar with hints of caramel and violets. Flavors consist of black cherry and other dark fruits with notes of vanilla from a combination of good French and American wood. The addition of Cabernet and Syrah brings a bit of blackberry and raspberry to the mix. Great acidity keeps the flavors hanging in the mouth well after the finish.

Varietal:  
86% Merlot  
8% Cabernet  
Sauvignon  
6% Syrah  
Appellation:  
100% Central Coast

TA: 0.65 g/100ml  
pH: 3.66

Alcohol: 13.5%  
Oak regimen:  
18 months in  
15% New French and  
American Oak  
Balance in older  
French/American  
Neutral

I would consider drinking this wine with carnitas tacos loaded with red salsa, Peking duck, or a fatty burger loaded with all of those things expensive restaurants like to pile on like avocado, mole, garlic aioli, and Berkswell cheese.

## ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



Working on his passion for over 20 years, Adam LaZarre is one of California's most acclaimed winemakers, having won the LA Int'l Wine Competition a record 3 times, amongst numerous other accolades.

Cheers,

Adam LaZarre, Winemaker