



**FROSTWATCH** *Vineyard & Winery*

## **Frostwatch 2006 Bennett Valley Merlot**

**Cases produced:** 170

**Suggested Retail:** \$30

**Composition:** 86% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Harvest Date:** Frostwatch – 10/23/06, Jemrose – 10/25/06

**Brix at Harvest:** Frostwatch - 26.8 degrees brix, Jemrose - 27.0 degrees brix

**Blend TA:** 6.2

**Blend Ph:** 3.8

**Alc:** 14.8%

**Vineyard Sources:** **Merlot:** Frostwatch Vineyard and Jemrose Vineyard are both located in Bennett Valley, one of Sonoma County's newest AVAs. A gap in the surrounding mountains permits cool coastal breezes and fog to pour into the valley on a regular basis throughout the spring and summer. As a result, the appellation is distinguished by its very long growing season, modest yields relative to other areas and full flavored wines with good natural acidity. Frostwatch Vineyard, planted in 1997 is located on a rocky apron beneath Bennett Peak. Planted ten years ago, Jemrose Vineyard sits on a steep slope with a Southern exposure. **Cabernet:** Somerston Vineyard, formerly known as the Priest Ranch, is a steeply sloped vineyard in the Napa Valley Appellation.

**Winemaking:** Fermented utilizing indigenous yeast with a five day cold soak and post fermentation extended maceration. Total time on the skins was 24 days. Malolactic fermentation utilizing indigenous malolactic bacteria proceeded after the primary fermentation and finished in late December of 2006. The wine was aged for 21 months in French oak barrels. Bottled unfiltered mid-summer 2008.

**Tasting Notes:** This wine exhibits great density with lots of cherry and plum flavors. It has an elegant silky texture, long finish and good basic structure courtesy of the Cabernet. We are very pleased with the way the fruit from the two Bennett Valley Merlot vineyards and the Napa Cabernet worked seamlessly together. This is an exciting wine, supple and full in body but with a true sense of elegance and polish.

**Winemaker:** Brett Raven

**Ratings:** Presently Unrated.

