

**VINTAGE**  
2006

**APPELLATION**  
Sonoma County

**BLEND**  
100% Merlot

**COOPERAGE**  
70% older French oak,  
30% new French, Hungarian  
and American oak



#### **TASTING NOTES**

Select lots of grapes were chosen from our valley-floor and mountain-top vineyards in Sonoma County to create this beautifully balanced and full-bodied 2006 Ferrari-Carano Merlot. A multidimensional, velvety wine with a dark ruby color and complex nose of fresh black cherries, blackberry, roasted coffee bean and chocolate, this year's Merlot is accented by intricately woven flavors of red currants and caramel with a touch of tobacco lingering on the silky, smooth finish.

#### **VINTAGE NOTES**

The vines for our Merlot are dry farmed in shallow, rocky, low-vigor soil that adds impressive depth and concentration of flavor intensity to the wine. An unusually cool and wet winter and spring caused a late start to the growing season, while above average heat in July, and then a drop in temperature mid-August, brought the Merlot to full maturity exactly when we wanted and extended the hang time for the grapes.

#### **WINEMAKER NOTES**

This wine is composed of 100% Merlot. The cool-climate, valley-floor vineyards produce supple, fruit-forward wine, while the mountain top vineyard fruit lends intensity and structure. Upon entering the winery, the hand-harvested grapes were destemmed and then fermented in tank before pressing. The wine was moved to barrels for malolactic fermentation and aged for 16 months, allowing for the perfect balance of fruit, tannin, and oak.

#### **FOOD PAIRINGS**

The fruit forward, easy drinking qualities of our 2006 Ferrari-Carano Merlot make it the perfect wine to pair with any red meat course, Italian entrée, and roasted or grilled fragrantly-spiced poultry dishes.

#### **WINE INFORMATION**

Bottled:	April 2008
Released:	October 2008
Alcohol:	14.5%
pH:	3.91
TA:	0.56



**FERRARI-CARANO**  
*Vineyards and Winery*

8761 Dry Creek Road  
Healdsburg, CA 95448  
www.ferrari-carano.com  
707.433.6700 fax 707.431.1742