



Fratelli Perata Winery

2003 Merlot, Wine Club Special Selection

We are very fond and proud of the Merlot we produce. They are regularly welcomed to our table at dinnertime. The Merlot that are designated "Wine Club Special Selection" are just that: our special French clone of Merlot grown from our own vineyards, the best barrels of those Merlot, bottled specifically for our Buon' Amici club, with a little left over for us.

The 2003 vintage was decidedly a unique one. Hot worldwide, dry. A small vintage, all of it terrifically good. Not since 1988 have we seen berries so small and rich. How we wished there were more. This French clone of Merlot, trained to the vertical shoot positioning in the field, was grown without watering the vines. The result was wonderful deep blackberry more than cherry flavor.

So here we present the 2003 Merlot, WCSS. Freshly bottled, it's full of fruit and new oak flavors, a big wine. We like it now, drunk with the attitude of a big Zinfandel. Ideally, Gino would have us lay it down for a few months or several years. But Carol cannot resist. Better put some in the cellar now.

Harvest date:	September 27, 2003
Brix:	25.25
pH:	3.7
Fermented in:	1 ½ ton lots
Pressed:	October 9, 2003 to new Demptos American oak barrels
Bottled:	September 9, 2006
Production:	152 cases

This wine does well with a chunk of Parmigiana Regianno, plain and simple.