



## 2011 2:30 A.M. MERLOT

### STEVE BORRA'S GILL CREEK RANCH ESTATE BOTTLED

At 2:30 in the morning, Steve Borra gets up and hops on his tractor to protect his highest quality Merlot against frost and mildew. These Merlot grapes are selected from vines growing just north of the town of Clements, east of Lodi, in our Clements Hills Gill Creek Ranch vineyard. Only 140 cases are made of this naturally fermented, barrel-aged, hand-crafted wine, bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

Steve Borra is a time-honored, traditional Italian winegrape-grower, using modern-day advances to nurture his vines. Each vineyard block is harvested only when perfectly ripe, with lots vinified separately, leveraging the latest in high-end winemaking techniques.

### Tasting Notes

Our full-bodied, middle-of-the-night Merlot will mesmerize you with scents of smoky oaked bacon in a potpourri of cloves and equal helpings of cherries and rose petals. These echo in your mouth, bathed in seamlessly smooth tannins, leading to a long finish of spicy tart red raspberries and cherries with roasted Mexican peppers. Make sure you've got a pail of pork chow mein standing by.

### Statistics

Appellation:	Clements Hills, Lodi (Gill Creek Ranch)		
Blend:	100% Merlot		
Harvested:	October 5, 2011		
Winemaking:	Free-run juice only		
Cellar:	17 months French oak		
Cases:	140 bottled March 7, 2013, unfinned, unfiltered		
Alcohol:	14.3%	RS:	0.05 g/L, <i>dry</i>
pH:	3.61	TA:	5.8 g/L
Retail Price:	\$18.99/750 mL		

Borra. Drink different.