



2012 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 220 cases are made of this naturally fermented, barrel-aged, hand-crafted wine, leveraging the latest in high-end winemaking techniques.

Tasting Notes

Cast in a garnet red, our beautiful Merlot is captivating just to look at, but you won't be able to restrain from taking in rich aromas of deliciously sour plums in a potpourri wardrobe of espresso and sweet orange flowers. When you sip, there is a shift to jammy black cherries with an expert touch of the sourness that brings liveliness, such that you could drink a bottle (or two!) all night. And you'll find some oak with a bit of herbal bell pepper that lets you know this is, in fact, a Merlot, rather than some random red. For the geeks, there's chalky tannins with nicely balanced acidity and a finish of coffee, anise and sassafras laid atop those persistent cherries. Sounds odd, but a pail of pork chow mein works wonders. Serve slightly chilled. (08/01/2014)

Statistics

Appellation:	Clements Hills, Lodi (Gill Creek Ranch)		
Blend:	100% Merlot		
Harvested:	October 3, 2012		
Winemaking:	Free-run juice only		
Cellar:	17 months French oak		
Cases:	220 bottled March 7, 2014		
Alcohol:	14.2%	RS:	0.34 g/L, dry
pH:	3.49	TA:	6.13 g/L
Retail Price:	\$19.99/750 mL		

Borra. Drink different.