

# CANDOR

## *Merlot* LOT 2

**PHILOSOPHY:** Candor wines are made to showcase classic varietal flavor. The concept is simple: make fresh, bright wines that show youthful and vibrant fruit flavors while still exhibiting rich complexity. The method to achieve this is to blend two vintages together and create a multi-vintage wine. Candor Lot 2 is a blend of the 2007 and 2008 vintages from Paso Robles and Santa Barbara County. By blending grapes together from different vintages and regions, we have crafted a wine that is spot-on California Merlot.

**Candor offers high quality, affordable red wines, which display a sincere and true expression of each grape.**

**WINEMAKING:** At harvest, grapes are crushed and de-stemmed and placed in stainless steel fermenting tanks. Pump-overs for 8 to 10 days allow for measured tannin and color extraction. Merlot lots are fermented separately before going into barrel. Lot 2 was aged in a combination of French and American oak, about 20% of which were new. The 2007 portion of the blend was barrel-aged 12 months, while the 2008 vintage was barrel-aged six months. Final blending occurred in May 2009, four months prior to bottling in August 2009.

**Candor wines. Truth defined.**



**VINEYARDS:** There is no problem finding Merlot vineyards in California. The problem is finding the right locations to grow good Merlot. The winemaking team at Hope Family Wines has experience finding the right vineyards, as exhibited in their Liberty School wines. They focused their efforts on coastal-influenced Merlot vineyards for the Candor project. A mature, cooler-temperature vineyard in North Santa Barbara County shows its capability to produce grapes with depth and character. The Paso Robles Merlot vineyards exhibit the more ripe, plum-like flavors. All vineyards are family-owned and operated with care – minimal manipulation, sustainable practices and low yields.

**TASTING NOTES:** Candor Merlot exhibits classic Bordeaux-like aromatics on the nose: black cherry, currant and cassis. A rich, full-bodied wine, it displays smooth, fine-grain tannins. Blackberry and plum flavors integrate nicely with the smoke and vanilla accents from the oak aging. Along with excellent structure, it showcases a silky long finish. Enjoy for the next five to seven years.

VARIETAL: Merlot  
PRODUCTION: 6,250 cases  
APPELLATION: Central Coast



[www.hopefamilywines.com](http://www.hopefamilywines.com)

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