

ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS

MERLOT

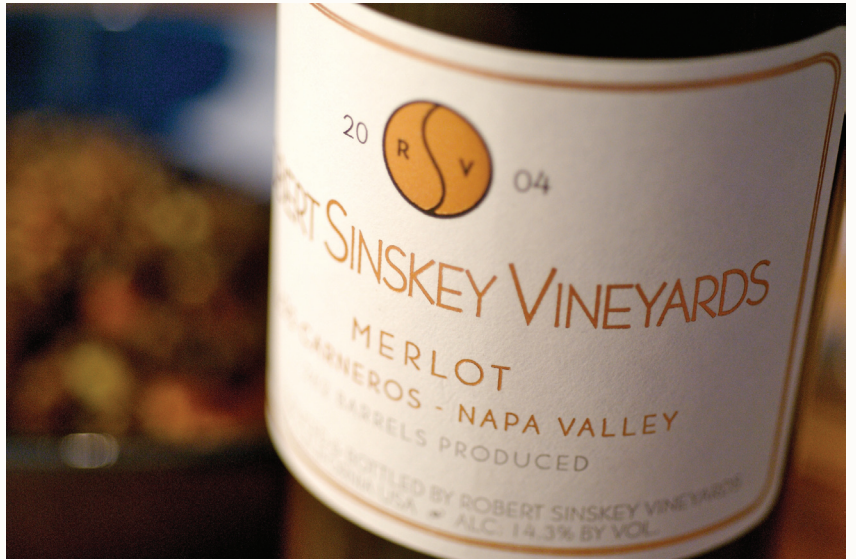
Los Carneros, Napa Valley, 2004

The early spring warmth of 2004 stirred the vines from slumber, prompting budbreak to commence a few weeks earlier than normal. Cooler weather ensued, leading to a modest fruit set. Relatively cool weather prevailed until summer heat spikes accelerated sugar development, leading to an early harvest with modest yields of beautiful and intense fruit.

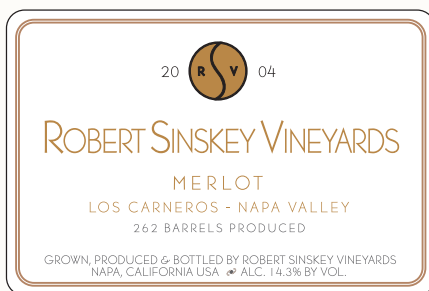
Three Amigos, OSR and Vandal Vineyards, all contributors to this cuvee, lie just north of the San Pablo Bay in Carneros. The Bay creates a convection current that draws off the summer heat and blows in cool air off the water, allowing for relatively gentle and even ripening. In a warm year like 2004, this natural "swamp cooler" was particularly

welcome. Merlot finds the maritime influence to its liking, as it closely resembles its ancestral home in Aquitaine where the grape still rules. In Bordeaux, merlot accounts for nearly 70% of plantings, whereas in California, Merlot is the second most planted cultivar behind its half-brother Cabernet Sauvignon.

The wine spent eighteen months in one-third new French oak barrels before bottling in the spring of 2006. A dollop (ten percent) of Cabernet Sauvignon plays a supporting role, adding structure. Two hundred and sixty-two barrels were produced.



**RSV'S VINEYARDS ARE CERTIFIED ORGANIC, THIS YEAR THEY ARE
DEMETER CERTIFIED BIODYNAMIC!**



TASTING NOTES:

A dark, yet brilliant, ruby color augurs pleasure for the other senses. Halfway to the glass, the olfactory sense meets fennel-laced plums and vanilla cassis; while aromas of violets and bay leaves vie for attention. A tipping of the glass reinforces these flavors on the palate and wraps them in the plush texture that makes Merlot so appealing. A refreshing snap and ripe polished to a never-ending finish.

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

Oak Treatment: 18 - 20 Months 1/3 New French Oak

Barrels Produced: 262 - TA: .68% - PH: 3.31 - Alcohol: 14.3%

FINE WINES FROM ORGANIC VINES

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