

# RED BICYCLETTE

## Red Bicyclette 2007 Merlot

### Wine Description

The 2007 Red Bicyclette® Merlot showcases aromas and flavors of red fruit jam with blackberry and cherry and a smooth mid-palate. This medium-full bodied wine has good depth and finishes strong with a light vanilla flavor from the oak aging.

### Harvest Notes

The warm winter and early flowering led many to prepare for an early harvest. However, the cooler summer temperatures along with wet weather slowed fruit development and led to harvest starting at the more typical time of early to mid-September. The berries were a bit bigger in 2007, but in good condition with great concentration of anthocyanins. Acidity levels were lower than in 2006, but the 2007 vintage produced wines with lively fruit aromas and flavors and exceptional color pigmentation.

### Winemaking Notes

Our 2007 Red Bicyclette Merlot was sourced from the Herault, and Aude areas within the Languedoc Roussillon region in Southern France. The 2007 Merlot grapes were destemmed with partial cold soaking, and then fermented in upright stainless steel tanks at moderate temperatures (25° C or 77° F) to prevent bitterness that can come from the skins. The wine underwent 28 days of extended maceration and finished with malolactic fermentation. Around 12% was aged for two months in heavy toast French oak, which imparted warm vanilla flavors as well as cedar characteristics. The components were then blended, filtered, and cold-stabilized for bottling.

### Finished Wine

**Varietal Content:** 100% Merlot

**Varietal Origin:** Herault and Aude in the Languedoc-Roussillon, France

**Titrateable Acidity:** 0.51 g/100ml

**pH:** 3.62

**Alcohol Level:** 13.65%

**Residual Sugar:** 0.35 g/100ml