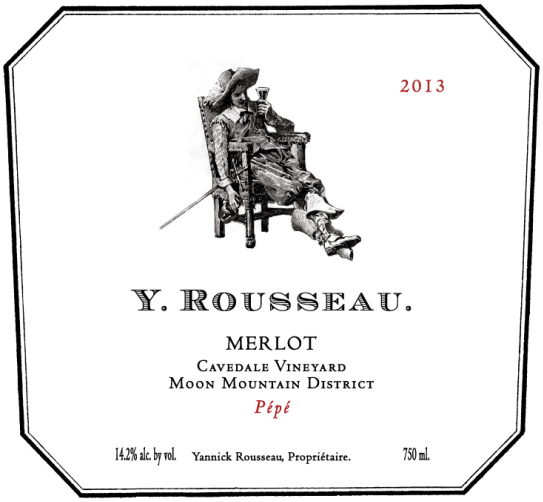
Y. ROUSSEAU.

2013 MERLOT *Pépé*
Cavedale Vineyards - Moon Mountain District



Story: This wine is named after Yannick's grandfather, Pépé, because Merlot is his favorite variety. Pépé used to make 5 to 6 barrels of Merlot every year in his garage and share it with all the family.

Tasting note: This is an uncommon Merlot of exceptional intensity and purity built with harmonious balance and structure. The nose is crowded with sugarplums, violet petals and a freshly opened pack of fig newtons. The flavors of strawberry rhubarb pie slip into bleuberries dusted in fine black pepper. The aromas and flavors continue to evolve and build the longer the wine stays opened. Our 2013 Merlot will drink beautifully now with a decant, while only improving gracefully over many years to come. **150 cases**

Vineyard: The grapes come from the organically farmed Cavedale Vineyards located on the western slopes of Mount Veeder at 2000 ft. elevation in the Moon Mountain District AVA of Sonoma. It's a cooler-climate site, resulting in wines with higher acidity, which complements and balances the dense fruit. Simply put, the site is ultra-specifically perfect for Merlot.

Winemaking: 100% naturally fermented, using native yeasts, and barrel-aged for 18 months in 50% new French oak.

Alcohol: 14.2% **pH:** 3.65

THE TASTING PANEL

93 | This is one impressive red. The nose is peppered and perky, while a luster of dark plum, silky black berries and chocolate espresso charm the rest of the soul. *(October 2016)*

Wine Enthusiast - **91 pts**

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