

PLUS!*Platinum Series Selection*

Shafer Vineyards

2007 Merlot

Napa Valley

Shafer Vineyards traces its beginnings to 1972 when John Shafer left a 23-year career in the publishing industry and, with his family, moved to the Napa Valley to pursue a second career in wine. After purchasing a 210-acre estate in Napa Valley's Stags Leap District, the Shafer family faced the arduous task of replanting the existing vineyards, which dated to the 1920s, and terracing the steep and rocky hillsides. What began as a career in viticulture, quickly expanded into full-scale winemaking and in 1978, the first Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon was made. This wine became a benchmark, winning the acclaimed San Francisco Vintners Club taste-off upon release and, over a decade later took first place in an international blind tasting held in Germany, where it outranked such wines as Chateau Margaux, Chateau Latour and Chateau Palmer. In 1983, John Shafer's son Doug became the winemaker and for the next ten years forged the trademark Shafer style of quality, consistency, and elegance. John Shafer went on to become chairman of the board in 1994, leaving Doug to take over the reins as president. Earlier this year, the father son team received the historic James Beard Foundation Award for "Outstanding Wine and Spirits Professional," joining such luminaries as Robert Mondavi and André Tchelistcheff. With this incredible honor and the team's unwavering reputation for supreme quality, Shafer Vineyards is among California's most popular and distinguished luxury wine brands.

ACCOLADES & TASTING NOTES

Shafer's wines are among the most sought after in Napa Valley, and because of very limited production, their wines are almost exclusively available through the winery. However, we were able to coax a handful of cases of Shafer's recently released, outstanding 2007 Merlot to share with our members, marking the first time Shafer has worked with a wine club! The 2007 Napa Valley Merlot hails from select foothill vineyards just south of Stags Leap District and Yountville, and the result is a wine with rich aromatics and elegance that comes with layer upon juicy layer of lush red and black jam fruits – cherry, plum, currant – and dark chocolate, black tea, smoke and spice. Shafer's 2007 Merlot is also critically acclaimed with a **92 Point** score from *Wine Spectator*, **90 Points** from *Connoisseurs' Guide*, and **90 Points** from *Robert Parker*, who says "The 2007 Merlot may be the finest Merlot I have ever tasted from Shafer. Reasonably priced for a Napa Valley Merlot, it is characterized by elegance and substance...my highest compliments to this great winery." Aged 20 months in oak. 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. Enjoy now until 2015.

REORDERS

2007 Merlot

Winery Direct: \$48.00 /bottle

Gold Medal Wine Store price:

2-Bottle Members: \$43.00 /bottle

4-Bottle/ Multi-Series Members: \$41.00 /bottle

*2 bottle min. order. Availability is extremely limited.

(plus shipping)

www.goldmedalwineclub.com

800-266-8888

