

**2010 The Grapes of Roth by Wölffer Estate
Merlot**

The 2010 Merlot also has 18% Cabernet Sauvignon from Jamesport on the North Fork. It was aged for 21 months in an equal mixture of new, second- and third-use oak and comes in at 13.5% alcohol. Simply gorgeous, this is fresh, sunny and very flavorful on the finish. Lively and youthful, its bright demeanor and controlled tannins finish off the picture. Always elegant, but always persistent, this is easy to drink and easier to love. It should age well, too. There were 2,592 bottles produced and 36 magnums.

Winemaker Roman Roth is a partner in Wölffer Estate and the wines under the private label he started ("The Grapes of Roth") are now subtitled "by Wölffer Estate," considered part of the premium wines in Wölffer's portfolio. Because of the once-separate tradition, they are identified as set forth above at Roman's request, but they are ma...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

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**2002 The Grapes of Roth by Wölffer Estate
Merlot**

The 2002 Merlot, a library wine, is all Merlot sourced from McCullough Vineyards on the North Fork. It was aged for 21 months in French oak (half new, the other half second-use). A good example of nicely maturing Merlot, shows its maturity with a touch of earthiness and tar, but it is also bright and lively with some freshness still. In a very good place now in terms of development and complexity, it remains vital in most respects and shows tension on the finish. I do think prudence would dictate drinking this over the next few years, but it won't fall off the table. There were 2,316 bottles and 18 magnums produced.

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**2013 The Grapes of Roth by Wölffer Estate
Virgin Berry Dry Riesling**

The 2013 Virgin Berry Dry Riesling is an interesting wine that winemaker Roman Roth calls his "Grosses Gewächs." It is not much of a threat just now to the great German GGs, but it is pretty fine in its own right. The "Virgin Berry" name derives from the occasional tendency of "unfertilized flowers [to] develop tiny golden...seedless grapes of extra sweetness and aromatic power," says the winery. "These virgin berries ripen much faster than regular Riesling grapes, developing greater sugar concentration." Well, whatever magic occurred in the vineyard, it seemed to work out great here. Bright, vivacious, fruity on the finish and quite lingering, this youthful Riesling seems both perky and substantial. It has, by the way, 7 grams per liter of residual sugar. While it is hardly bone dry, the sugar expresses itself as fruitiness and is balan...

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