

Billy K Merlot

Billy K Merlot is dedicated to Richard Alfaro's late father-in-law and friend William "Billy K" Kempker. Bill was a big man with an even bigger heart, a "Man's Man" who raised four beautiful daughters, the first of which is Richard's wife Mary Kay. The label is taken from a treasured family photo featuring Young Bill in his heyday, sport fishing off the Gulf of Mexico, in the 1940's.

The Vineyard

Ryan Spencer Vineyard, named after the Alfaro's son, was planted in 2001. It is comprised of 7 acres broken into 6 different blocks on a very steep hill between 450 and 800 feet in elevation. **Grandma & Grampa's** blocks are located on the lower part of the hill and is planted to 4 different Dijon clones of Chardonnay and Pommard clones 4 & 5 Pinot Noir. **Billy K** block is planted to one acre of Merlot divided between clones 343, 347 and 181. **La Escalera** is a terraced hillside block planted to Hermitage clones of Syrah. On the top of the hill is **Mrs. K's** block. It is planted to Syrah clones 470, 877 and 174 with a vine density of over 2300 vines per acre



The Vintage

Fruit set was minimal due to the natural thinning of late spring rains. The cool growing season was interrupted by one intense 3 day heat wave that saw temperature reach over 100 degrees. The grapes were harvested on November 1st.

The Wine

This vintage produced five barrels of wine, for a total of 120 cases. Ruby color, cedar box, bright fruit, black currant, anise, vanilla and toasty oak. Nicely balanced. Aged for 19 month in French oak barrels with 60% new. This wine is built to age. Decanting is recommended if you plan to consume the wine now. Retail price: \$30/bottle \$65/magnum

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