

# Yarden Merlot

1999 Yarden Merlot

YARDEN

## The Wine

The **1999 Yarden Merlot** features ripe berry and plum characters layered with hints of orange peel and warm spices with a backdrop of rich oak and subtle vanilla. The wine is rich and complex, with a long, flavorful finish.

**Yarden Merlot** will continue to improve with a few years of cellaring, and will make for delicious drinking for up to ten years following the vintage, if well-stored. We enjoy **Yarden Merlot** with a variety of rich foods, such as smoky grilled duck, wild mushroom-stuffed leg of lamb or pasta quattro formaggi.

## The Vintage

The 1999 season followed an exceptionally dry and relatively warm winter resulting in a harvest beginning two weeks earlier than normal, at the very end of July. Moderate summer and fall temperatures stretched out the vintage to fifteen weeks, finishing on November 4 with Cabernet Sauvignon in the northern Golan. The relaxed pace enabled picking each vineyard block at its optimum. Low-density vine canopies and a lower than average crop yielded exceptional color and flavor development.

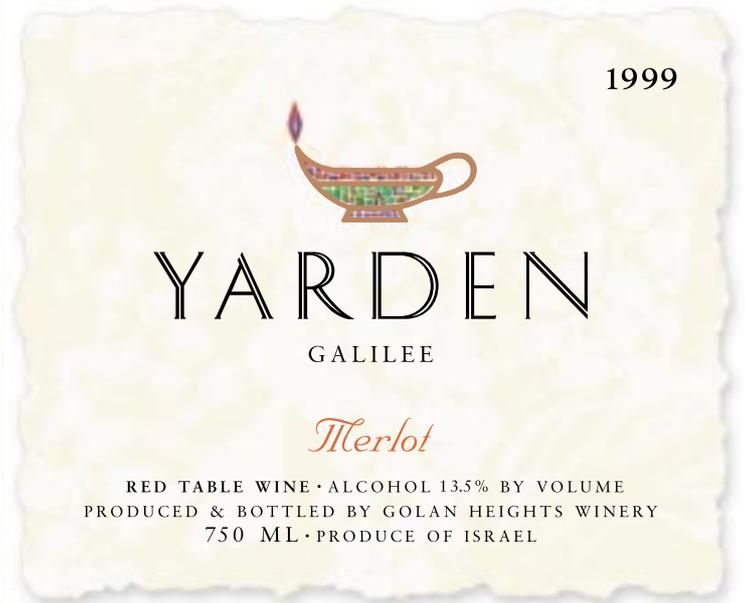
The **1999 Yarden Merlot** is made from 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. The fruit comes from a number of vineyards in the central to northern Golan Heights. This area consistently produces outstanding Merlot. The wine aged for fourteen months in 225 liter (60 gal) oak barrels. Of these barrels, about 40% were new and 90% French, the remaining 10% being American.

## The Analyses

Brix at Harvest	24.1
% Alc (v/v)	13.5
TA (g/l)	6.3
pH	3.41
RS	DRY

## The Appellation

The Galilee (or Galil) is the most northern, and generally considered the best, appellation in Israel. The highest quality area within the appellation is the Golan Heights (or simply the Golan), the coldest region in Israel. The vineyards on this volcanic plateau rise from 400 meters (1,300 feet) above sea level to 1,200 meters (3,900 feet) and receive snowfall in the winter. The Golan Heights Winery is located in the town of Katzrin, in the central Golan.



Golan Heights Winery