



2013 Benhaim Merlot Reserve

Rating

87

Release Price

NA

Drink Date

2018 - 2023

Producer: Benhaim**From:** Israel , Galilee , Upper Galilee**Reviewed by**

Mark Squires

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Source

237, The Wine Advocate

Color: Red**Type:** Table**Sweetness:** Dry**Type:** Table**Variety:** Merlot

The 2013 Merlot Reserve also has 15% combined of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, all aged for 24 months in a mixture of American and French barrels (50% new). It comes in at 13.7% alcohol. Elegant and beautifully balanced, this understated Merlot seems to be a lot subtler than the 2012, granting that they are not here side by side. It reduces oak impact (a good thing), while not seeming as lush or as concentrated (not as good). The tannins are very ripe—structure was not the big virtue for either this or the 2012. They are pretty much ready to roll when I see them. This may not have the best future in the cellar, but at the moment it drinks gorgeously. You'll like it better than the score suggests. Not imported, this runs around 150 shekels in Israel.