



**Merlot Ben Zimra Vineyard 2011**



Kerem Ben Zimra is one of the best-known vineyards in Israel, the site for these grapes is in the western portion of the area commonly known as the "Plateau". The vineyard is planted at an altitude of 850 meters above sea level on a shallow westerly facing slope. The soil is shallow, volcanic and very stony. Interestingly, basalt is not common in this part of the Galilee; generally the soil type is red clay. The basalt it is what remains from the split with the Bashan Ridge, due to the Syrian-Africa rift.

The vineyard is at 770 meters above sea level and is planted on stony red clay soil. The site is planted facing east with the rows planted on a north south axis, overlooking Ramat Dalton and the settlements of Bar Yochai and Or Haganuz.

The symbol for this vineyard is an old vine as the plateau of Ben Zimra is one of the oldest vineyards in the Galilee.

**WINEMAKING:**

The grapes were picked in the last week of October. After a long cool summer allowed for a period of long slow ripening.

During fermentation the grape cap was pumped over several times a day to increase the depth of colour and levels of extraction of the wine in the gentlest way possible. Before completing fermentation the wine was pressed out, and the free run wine was separated and used to make this wine. The wine was aged in second and third use French-oak barrels for eighteen months.

**TASTING NOTES:**

This wine is well defined and structured with elegance and restraint.

**SUGGESTED SERVING TEMPERATURE:**

16-18° Celsius

**ANALYSIS:**

Alcohol:	14.2 %
pH:	3.54
Total Acidity:	5.4g/l

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