



2016 Merlot Estate Grown Napa Valley

Varietal Composition:

83% Merlot
10% Cabernet Sauvignon
3% Petite Sirah
3% Petit Verdot
1% Lagrein

Appellation:

Napa Valley

Harvest Date:

September 19th to October 11th

Harvest Brix:

26.2°B

Barrel aging:

17 months in French oak barrels;
50% of which is new

Finished Alcohol:

15.2%

pH:

3.71

Titrateable acidity:

6.5 g/L



Winemaking Notes:

The 2016 vintage grew a very big Merlot. Our Merlot is usually all about hang time, the more we get the more the Merlot gives us. The 2016 vintage allowed us plenty of hang time, and that made the winemaking a breeze. We always extend the maceration of some of our Merlot looking for a richer and more complex blending with the more fruit forward shorter maceration lots.

Vineyard Notes:

These vines are planted in one of the warmest locations in the Napa Valley. This vineyard is ideal for ripening mature tannins and flavor in our Merlot grapes. 2016 was not a very hot growing season, so the flavor and tannin development had time to keep pace with sugar accumulation, creating excellent, well-balanced flavors and intense color. That gave this Merlot great concentration and a silky texture. The rockier soils of this vineyard site accentuated these attributes to bring about the highest quality grapes our vineyard can yield.

Tasting Notes:

A big, luxurious Merlot packed with aromas of brambleberry, crème brûlée, and chocolate. Big rounded tannins and fruit-forward flavors help make this a Cabernet drinker's style Merlot. There is good weight on the palate and a rich velvety texture. It has a luscious dark berry flavor that is concentrated and full and jammy and is accented with black pepper and dusty spices. The wine finishes with characters of cream, vanilla and framboise. Enjoy this versatile wine with steak, poultry or other light meats, but to be honest we have no problem sitting back and enjoying it on its own.