District Collection
2015 Rutherford Merlot

Technical Notes

Appellation: Rutherford

Varietal: 100% Merlot

Alcohol: 15.5%

pH: 3.52

TA: 6.0 g/L

Fermentation: 20 months in French oak, 24% new

Production: 260 Cases

In the Vineyard

Grapes for the Rutherford Merlot are picked from two blocks on our Rutherford estate vineyard which is farmed according to Biodynamic® and organic principals and is known for gravelly alluvial fan soils with good drainage, creating more intense flavors. The vines in the two blocks were picked according to their location with the afternoon block providing riper fruit lending more jammy characteristics to the wine and the morning block, which ripens slower, adding more complexity.

About the Vintage

The unseasonably warm temperatures in the early growing season in the Napa Valley in 2015 resulted in early bud break and bloom. Colder temperatures later in the season caused uneven fruit set and resulted in a smaller crop than previous average yields. Winemakers and vineyard crews worked diligently to pick and sort the best berries. While drought was still a concern for most of California, Napa Valley received 75% of normal rainfall for the water year.

Conversations With The Winemaker

The grapes were harvested between September 30 and October 2 and were on the skins for an average of 31 days. The wine aged in 24% new French oak barrels from Demptos for 20 months before being bottled unfined and unfiltered.

Wine Profile

This beautiful Merlot opens with rich aromas of black cherry and espresso with hints of mulled spices. Flavors of raspberry and blackberry coat the palate of this well-structure and balanced wine. Dusty tannins lead to a long, lingering finish.