



2015 Small Lot Napa Valley Meritage



TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Napa Valley

Varietal: 51% Cabernet Sauvignon,
19% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot, 13% Malbec,
4% Cabernet Franc

Alcohol: 15% by vol.

pH: 3.72

TA: 5.9 g/L

Aging: 20 months in French, 56% new

Case Production: 243 cases

IN THE VINEYARD

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 for this Meritage are grown in the famed Napa Valley appellation, and the blend is made up of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc providing an array of varietal characteristics to work with when crafting the wine. Cabernet Sauvignon provides richness to the wine, while Merlot contributes to the silky mouth feel. The Cabernet Franc provides stunning aromatics while the Malbec and Petit Verdot lends backbone to the overall structure of the wine resulting in a blend that will age nicely over the next 8-10 years. This Meritage is 100% barrel-aged for 20 months in 56% new French oak.

WINE PROFILE

Our 2015 Small Lot Napa Valley Meritage opens with aromas of Madagascar vanilla, black cardamom and a touch of star anise. Jammy fruit flavors of cassis and brown sugar accented with dark chocolate and allspice seamlessly spread across the palate. Silky, well balance tannins and a full, round mouthfeel make this the perfect accompaniment to traditional pasta dishes with marinara sauce.