



2016 Small Lot Napa Valley Meritage



TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Napa Valley

Varietal: 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 9% Malbec

Alcohol: 15% by vol.

pH: 3.71

TA: 6.2 g/L

Aging: 19 months in French, 35% new

Case Production: 217 cases

IN THE VINEYARD

The 2016 vintage across California was a near-perfect growing season. A mild winter and spring led to a steady mild July and August, followed by warm days at the end of the season for the perfect ripeness. With warm days and cool nights in the summer, grape growers were able to maintain ideal acid levels with balanced, concentrated fruit flavors.

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. The Cabernet Sauvignon, which comes from two vineyards in St. Helena and Oakville, adds dark fruit flavors and plush, sweeter tannins. The Merlot and Petite Verdot hailing from our Estate vineyard in Rutherford and Atlas Peak, both provide texture, density and structure. The Cabernet Franc provides stunning aromatics while the Malbec provides a lush, silky mouthfeel. All of the varietals for this blend go through extended maceration for an average of 40 days on the skins. The wine then spends 19 months in small French oak barrels with 35% new oak, primarily from coopers Ermitage, Baron and Demptos.

WINE PROFILE

Our 2016 Small Lot Napa Valley Meritage opens with aromas of allspice, brown sugar and hints of cinnamon. Bold dark fruit flavors of baked blackberry pie, nutmeg and touches of dark chocolate seamlessly spread across the palate. Silky, well balance tannins and a full, round mouthfeel make this a blend that will age nicely over the next 8-10 years.