



2016 Estate Collection Napa Valley Merlot



TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Napa Valley

Varietals: 89% Merlot, 11% Petit Verdot

Alcohol: 14.5% by vol.

TA: 5.9 g/L

pH: 3.63

Aging: 100% French Oak, 18% new, for 20 months

Production: 211 cases

THE ESTATE COLLECTION

The Estate Collection is a series of limited-production wines available only at the Raymond Estate. Sourced from our finest estate vineyards and longtime vineyard partners, each wine represents our winemaking team's commitment to crafting wines worthy of our five generation winemaking legacy in Napa Valley.

IN THE VINEYARD

The Merlot grapes for our Estate Collection Napa Valley wine are grown on our estate vineyard in Rutherford and a vineyard in Oak Knoll while the Petit Verdot is from a vineyard in Atlas Peak. The cooler climate brings out the textural side of the wine and the rocky soils add density and good weight to the mid-palate.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKERS

After the grapes were hand-picked and sorted on October 1 and 4, both flower days, the wine spent an average of 29 days on the skins before being aged for 20 months in 18% new French oak. The tightly grained barrels provide textural complexity, added depth, and a plush, full body.

WINE PROFILE

The 2016 vintage of our Estate Collection Merlot opens with dark fruit aromas mixed with all spice and a touch of currant. This is a structured wine with intricate flavors of blueberries, plum and black cherry that are complemented by earthy characteristics. Well-balanced with with fine-grained tannins, the finish is plush and lingering.