



2016 Reserve Selection Napa Valley Merlot



TECHNICAL NOTES

Appellation: Napa Valley

Varietal: 97% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon

Alcohol: 15%

pH: 3.61

TA: 5.6 g/L

Ageing: 20 months, 25% new French oak

In the Vineyard

The grapes for our Reserve Selection Napa Valley Merlot were sourced from our vineyards in Rutherford as well as select growers in St. Helena and Oak Knoll. Our estate vineyards are located on gravelly alluvial fan soils with good drainage, necessary for growing excellent quality Merlot. The grapes are grown organically and Biodynamically® and lend structure and age ability to the wine. The grapes from St. Helena provide the wine freshness while the Oak Knoll fruit adds plushness and texture to the mid palate.

About the Vintage

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 Winemakers

Harvested between September 28 and October 7, 2016, the grapes were hand sorted and spent an average of 33 days on the skins before being aged for 20 months in 25% new French oak including Berthomieu and Radoux barrels, with the remainder in once and twice-used French oak. Tightly grained barrels yield their oak characteristics in a more deliberate fashion for a consistent, well-rounded aging process.

Wine Profile

Our 2016 Reserve Selection Merlot opens with aromas of cassis, Tahitian vanilla, acai berry and Tahitian vanilla. The plush entry of cardamom and cocoa are complemented by lively and fresh red berry fruit flavors. This is a structured wine with a nice touch of barrel spice and a fresh and lingering finish.