

# MERLOT

*Vintage*

2017

*Varietal*

100% Merlot

*Appellation*

Dry Creek Valley

LIGHT

MEDIUM BODIED

RICH



*Gold award winner!*

## *About The Wine*

Many don't know that Merlot is the most planted grape varietal in Bordeaux, France, and that it is actually a genetic "sibling" of Cabernet Sauvignon as they share one of the same parents, Cabernet Franc! Don't let the movie Sideways trick you, Merlots are fabulous wines that can age for 10 plus years. On our Merlot, experience notes of dried cranberries, pomegranates and fennel on the nose. It has a slightly spicy nature that mingles with freshly picked blackberries. Medium to strong tannins on the palate, drink now or hold for up to 5 years!

## *Winemaker Notes*

Significant rainfall throughout the winter filled most reservoirs, replenished soils and caused new life in vineyard cover crops for 2017. This rain was a welcomed site for most vintners, after struggling with drought for the past 5 years. In general, harvest began early at a normal pace in most regions, and then during a heat wave in late August & early September it processed rapidly. In mid-September, temperatures cooled, slowing down harvest and giving Winemaker's time to clear their cellars and let their red grapes ripen gradually. Overall, flavor and quality looked excellent throughout the state and we were extraordinarily pleased with the fruit we received. Once the fruit arrived in Solana Beach, we destemmed and processed it on site. The grapes then fermented in picking bins for 2 weeks. After pressing, the wines were aged for 12 months in 100% once used French Oak.

*Recommended Food Pairing:* For a Tuesday night, pair with pizza or a mushroom tomato based dish. For the weekends, pair with a hardy, rustic ratatouille!