

DUCKHORN.  
VINEYARDS



## 2015 Napa Valley Merlot

Our Napa Valley Merlot is a complex blend of several individual vineyard lots, incorporating fruit from our estate vineyards and from top independent growers throughout the Napa Valley. The final wine is a rich and cohesive expression of the entire Napa Valley, reflecting the varied microclimates and soils of this unique appellation.

### In the Vineyards

In Napa Valley, a warm, dry spring resulted in an early budbreak, while an extended flowering period brought a return to normal yields after three years of abundant crops. With berry weights down, the grapes offered great concentration, while retaining excellent acidity. We had one of our earliest harvests in the past decade, with our first white grapes arriving at the winery on July 31<sup>st</sup>. A light rain in mid-September nourished the vines, while providing welcome additional hangtime. Overall, the quality of the fruit was exceptional, with our white wines showing both richness and complexity, and our red grapes displaying a fine balance between elegance and intensity, with gorgeous dark fruit flavors.

### Comments from the Winemaker

The 2015 growing season yielded a classic expression of Napa Valley Merlot, with a fleshy entry and juicy layers of Bing cherry, raspberry and plum, along with hints of blueberry, cedar, vanilla and clove. Underscored by polished tannins, the juiciness of the entry evolves into a lush, silky texture that carries the flavors to a long, generous finish marked by notes of freshly ground coffee beans with a splash of ripe, red cherry.

### Varietal Content

85% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

### Harvest Information

Appellation: Napa Valley

Harvest Dates: August 21 – October 2

Average Sugar at Harvest: 26.1° Brix

### Cooperage

100% French oak

Barrel Aging: 15 months

40% new, 60% neutral

### Production and Technical Data

Alcohol: 14.5%

0.57 g/100 ml titratable acidity

10-12 days fermentation at 82°F

pH: 3.65

