

DUCKHORN[®]

VINEYARDS



2016 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

2016 offered another near-perfect vintage in Napa Valley! While much-needed rain during the winter months helped to replenish our reservoirs, a dry spring and summer, with moderate temperatures and plenty of sunshine, led to another early harvest. Our first white grapes came into the winery on August 3rd, with the remainder of our whites following at an even, steady pace. A few weeks of ideally timed cool weather in early September provided additional hangtime, yielding bright acids and beautifully articulated flavors in our early ripening reds. Warm, dry weather for the remainder of the season allowed the rest of our grapes to develop rich, concentrated flavors, with polished tannins and wonderful complexity.

Comments from the Winemaker

The 2016 growing season yielded a beautifully complex expression of Napa Valley Merlot, with inviting aromas of fresh black raspberry, vanilla, tea leaves, pie crust and licorice. On the palate, luxurious red-fruit flavors of strawberry, plum, Bing cherry and loganberry are supported by silky tannins and a bright, mouthwatering acidity that carries the wine to a lingering finish, with hints of maple, cedar and sweet spice.

Varietal Content

77% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon, 0.5% Malbec, 0.5 % Petit Verdot

Harvest Information

Appellation: Napa Valley
Harvest Dates: August 31 – October 19
Average Sugar at Harvest: 26.4° Brix

Cooperage

100% French oak
Barrel Aging: 15 months
40% new, 60% neutral

Production and Technical Data

Alcohol: 14.5%
0.55 g/100 ml titratable acidity
10-12 days fermentation at 82°F
pH: 3.72

