

# DECOY

## 2018 SONOMA COUNTY MERLOT

For more than four decades, Duckhorn Vineyards has been crafting exceptional Napa Valley Merlot reflecting the rich diversity of the valley's many appellations. Drawing on our winemaking team's expertise working with this varietal, Decoy Sonoma County Merlot is a lush and inviting wine highlighting the elegance of the varietal from another exceptional growing region.

### VINTAGE NOTES

The 2018 growing season began with a cool winter, and just enough rain to replenish the vineyards. A temperate spring followed by mild weather throughout the summer allowed the grapes to ripen at a very measured pace, something we love to see in our vineyards. After several years of early harvests, the relatively mild weather and a healthy sized crop led to a return to more normal harvest times. After enjoying abundant hangtime to fully ripen, the quality of the grapes was extremely impressive. Overall, our 2018 whites and rosé show an ideal combination of lovely fruit-forward flavors and elegance, while the reds are lush and complex, with great color and concentration.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

This lush and inviting Merlot displays layers of black cherry, blueberry and plum underscored by dark chocolate, cedar and mineral notes. On the palate, balanced acidity adds poise and elegance, while silky tannins carry the wine to a fruitful and concentrated finish.

### WINEMAKING

APPELLATION	Sonoma County
SUB -APPELLATIONS	54% Dry Creek, 16% Alexander Valley, 10% Russian River, 5% Knights Valley
VARIETAL COMPOSITION	98% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petit Verdot
OAK PROFILE & AGING	100% French oak
ALCOHOL	13.9%
PH	3.45
ACIDITY	0.61 g/100 ml



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