



Girard

2017 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2017 growing season was not like the past few vintages; it wasn't particularly "easy" or "by the book" but it was an opportunity flex our grape growing and wine making skills and we remain proud of the high-quality wine we produced in this vintage. The year began with abundant rainfall. Spring weather was mild, resulting in extended flowering. A freak hail storm passed through quickly in June causing isolated damage. A warm summer was punctuated by three heat events, including one over Labor Day weekend, which kicked harvest into high gear by early September. Cool weather arrived immediately afterward, allowing sugar levels to return to normal and affording the grapes additional hang-time on the vine.

VINEYARD NOTES

The Merlot for this wine was sourced from the Rutherford River Ranches vineyard in the heart of Rutherford. While Merlot has long taken a back seat to Cabernet Sauvignon, we believe this bottling showcases the variety's ability to stand on its own.

TASTING NOTES

The nose offers lively red fruit aromas of bright red currant and raspberry plus a heady mix of spiced mocha and caramel aromas. The generous palate is well-structured with zingy red raspberry, red currant, plum and clove flavors. Toasted oak spice and refined tannins offer a rich and satisfying finish.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION 100% Merlot

APPELLATION Napa Valley | OAK AGING 14 months in French oak, 45% new

ALCOHOL 14.9% | pH 3.59 | TA 6.9 g/100ml | RESIDUAL SUGAR .9 g/L | PRODUCTION 413 cases