

# SWANSON

## VINEYARDS

### 2015 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Merlot has remained at the core Swanson Vineyards' identity since Clarke Swanson purchased the estate vineyard in 1985.

#### GROWING SEASON:

2015 provided an excellent growing season for our Merlot vines. Naturally low yields from a cool period of weather during fruit-set gave us concentrated grapes and open, disease free clusters. Warm to moderate temperatures throughout the year, helped preserve acidity, whilst rapidly generating sugars. One of earliest harvest's on record, meant we had picked out the blocks in mid-September, harvesting grapes that were perfectly ripe, intense and delightfully aromatic with a perfect balance of acidity.

#### VINEYARDS:

Grapes were sourced from the Swanson family estate, as well as vineyards that lie on the western bench of the Oakville AVA. Loose gravels provide excellent drainage, which combined with meticulous farming, gives perfect grapes. The spacing and trellis system of these vineyards means that even in the hottest months, the delicate grapes are protected from the sun, ensuring lush flavors and ripe tannins.

#### WINEMAKER'S NOTES:

In the glass, our 2015 Napa Valley Merlot offers intense aromas of plum, crushed red fruits and dried oregano, developing into more floral tones of violets and wet slate. The palate displays generous layers of red fruits, ripe plum, brown sugar and blackcurrants with more savory characteristics of seasoned leather and black tea on the finish. Texturally soft with firm tannins, which provide structure, this wine shows balance and persistence throughout the palate.

- Robin Akhurst, Winemaker



#### HARVEST DATE:

September 20th

#### COMPOSITION:

79% Merlot, 12% Petite Verdot  
& 9% Cabernet Sauvignon

#### WINEMAKING:

18 months in 225-liter  
both French and  
American oak barrels.  
30% new oak  
(15% French; 15% American)

#### BOTTLING DATE:

July 24th, 2017  
2,584 cases (12 x 750ml)