

# SWANSON

## VINEYARDS

### 2017 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Merlot has remained at the core of Swanson Vineyards' identity since 1985

#### GROWING SEASON:

After a series of dry years, 2017 brought back plenty of rainfall, making it one of the wettest years on record. A wet winter and spring helped recharge the groundwater resources as well as filling reservoirs and irrigation ponds. Bud break happened around mid-March amidst continued light rain which helped in preventing frost damage. Bloom and fruit set occurred under mild conditions giving a 75% successful fruit set. The abundance of soil moisture provided a plentiful water supply to the root systems throughout the year, which fueled rigorous canopy growth. A mild June and July gave way to sporadic heat spike events immediately, followed by cooling trends, which ran throughout the harvest period. This caused a stop-and-start approach to harvesting as the sugar levels increased and then fell back down.

#### VINEYARDS:

Situated on fluvial soils deposited from the ever changing course of the Napa River, this vineyard benefits from good drainage, perfect sun exposure and readily available nutrients. The vines are set upon quad trellising to protect the grapes from too much sun exposure allowing for a long hang time, with plenty of time for the grapes to to ripen to their full potential.

#### WINEMAKER'S NOTES:

Subtle aromas of red fruits, a hint of milk chocolate and a touch of earth waft from the glass. In the mouth, intense plums, strawberries and briar, rush across across the palate. As the wine opens up, blueberry notes become evident. The firm acidity helps maintain the structure, which is balanced against the moderate tannins that drive the finish. Pure, well rounded and delicious. Drink now, but will improve over the next 7 to 10 years.

- Robin Akhurst, Winemaker

#### HARVEST DATE:

October 5th

#### COMPOSITION:

100% Merlot

#### WINEMAKING:

20 months in 225-liter  
French oak barrels;  
35% new oak

#### BOTTLING DATE:

July 16th, 2019  
4,000 cases (12 x 750ml)

