

# SWANSON

## VINEYARDS

### 2014 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

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

#### GROWING SEASON:

2014 was another great year for Napa. The slightly higher rainfall in Spring allowed the vines to access much needed soil water at budbreak. Successful flowering set a good crop, which allowed us to selectively thin throughout the year. The drought conditions towards the maturation phase of berry development gave us small concentrated clusters of grapes; perfect for making intense and concentrated aromatic wines, albeit in limited quantities.

#### VINEYARDS:

Grapes were sourced from the western bench of the Oakville appellation, where loose gravelly soils provide excellent drainage; combined with meticulous farming, this gives perfect grapes. The spacing and trellis system of this vineyard means that even in the hottest months, the delicate grapes were protected from the sun, ensuring lush flavors and ripe tannins.

#### WINEMAKER'S NOTES:

In the glass, our 2014 Napa Valley Merlot offers vibrant aromas of plum, crushed red fruits and leather that transcend into more subtle tones of violets and graphite. The palate displays generous layers of red fruits, ripe plum and blackcurrants, which coat the mouth. Secondary flavors of seasoned leather, black tea and mineral notes start to show as the wine opens in the glass.

- Robin Akhurst, Winemaker



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#### HARVEST DATE:

September 16th

#### COMPOSITION:

100% Merlot

#### WINEMAKING:

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

#### BOTTLING DATE:

July 17th, 2016  
300 cases (12 x 750ml)