

SWANSON

VINEYARDS

2016 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

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

GROWING SEASON:

A near perfect growing season in 2016 ensured that our harvest was of extremely high quality. Benefiting from early bud break and plenty of spring rain, we saw early growth of the young canopy. As the temperatures started to rise and the rain events became less frequent, the vines flowered, moving into bloom with optimum conditions; helping promote a successful and abundant fruit set. The drought conditions of the previous years were starting to recede as we maintained a full soil moisture profile for much of the early growing season in all our vineyards. As we moved into veraison - the period where the small green berries start to develop color, gain sugar and lose their acidity - we began to see the true potential that 2016 was offering. It was fortunate that the rains held off until mid-October, as we were able to harvest our vineyards at precisely the right time, optimizing fruit flavor intensity whilst retaining the natural bright balanced acidity of the grape.

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:

Deep dark in the glass with gorgeous aromas of blue fruit, pie crust and a touch of coconut husk. On the palate the rich texture combines well with the full bodied tannins and ripe plum along with cassis flavors. Layers of fruit intertwine with subtle secondary flavors of briar, cigar box and a touch of graphite minerality. Drinking well now but will improve with careful cellaring over the next 8-12 years.

- Robin Akhurst, Winemaker

HARVEST DATE:

Sept. 25th thru Sept. 28th

COMPOSITION:

88% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot
& 4% Cabernet Sauvignon

WINEMAKING:

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

BOTTLING DATE:

July 16th, 2018
4,000 cases (12 x 750ml)

