

MERRYVALE

VINEYARDS

2018 Malbec Napa Valley



Winemaking

The 2018 Malbec is a blend of 89% Malbec, 8% Cabernet Franc, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Merlot, sourced from some of our favorite vineyards in the Napa Valley, including our Profile Estate. In classic Bordeaux style, native as well as commercial yeast fermentation started after a 5-day cold soak. The wines were pumped over twice a day until dry, then pressed at 15-21 days on skins and drained to barrels where malolactic fermentation occurred. Aged for 22 months in 50% new French oak barrels, the wine was bottled without fining or filtration.

Vintage

2018 was a remarkable vintage—the long growing season allowed the grapes to achieve full phenolic maturity, while the lack of extreme weather created the ideal conditions for harvesting at peak ripeness. Abundant rains early in the year were followed by lots of filtered light in spring and early summer. Both bud break and flowering occurred a bit late, but under ideal weather conditions, creating plentiful and even fruit set. Summer brought generous sun during the day and cooler marine influences. The relatively mild summer followed by extended fall sunshine and moderate heat created near-ideal conditions.

Tasting Notes

Tempting aromas of dark red fruits, cocoa and baking spices. The red fruit and minerality, hallmarks of the fabled Stagecoach volcanic soil this wine hails from, are resplendent throughout. As it opens, a gamey earthiness emerges, deepening in complexity. Medium bodied with fine tannins, the wine is long and immensely satisfying, and begs to be paired with steak, lamb, and game meats. Drink over the next 5+ years.

Appellation:	Napa Valley
Blend:	89% Malbec, 8% Cabernet Franc, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Merlot
Vineyard:	Stagecoach, Stanton, Farella Vineyards and Profile Estate Vineyard
Cooperage:	22 months in 50% new French oak barrels
Alc:	14.6%
pH:	3.59
TA:	6.1 g/L

EST. 1983

