

MERRYVALE

VINEYARDS

2018 Petit Verdot Napa Valley



Winemaking

Merryvale's Estate Vineyard lies on an eastern ridge overlooking St. Helena at almost 1,000 feet of elevation. Planted in 1997, this vineyard consistently delivers grapes that stand out for their plush fruit character, complexity and silky tannins. The fruit was harvested before dawn in small picking lugs, then destemmed and sorted at the winery. Each tank was gravity filled and the fruit was cold soaked for 5 days. Native yeast fermentation began after that and reached peak temperatures of 88°F. Pump-overs were done twice a day until the wines were pressed and barreled down where malolactic fermentation occurred. We aged the wine for 22 months in 50% new French oak barrels. The wine was bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

Vintage

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, virtually uninterrupted by major heat spikes. The relatively mild summer followed by extended fall sunshine and moderate heat created near-ideal conditions for winemakers to allow their fruit to accumulate flavor complexity with gradual increases in sugar levels.

Tasting Notes

An aromatically explosive wine, this unique bottling reflects all the power and expressiveness characteristic of Petit Verdot. Usually a small blending component in more Cabernet Sauvignon heavy Bordeaux style blends, Petit Verdot takes center stage here. Enticing aromas of jasmine, violets, blue fruits, and baking spices lead into a powerful yet seamless palate of structured tannin layered with notes of blueberry cobbler and dark chocolate. The long, alluring finish rewards return. Powerful while young, this wine will benefit from decanting and age gracefully over the next 10+ years.

Appellation:	Saint Helena, Napa Valley
Blend:	76% Petit Verdot, 13.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10.5% Cabernet Franc
Vineyard:	Merryvale Estate Vineyard
Cooperage:	22 months in 50% new French oak from the center of France
Alc:	14.6%
PH:	4.1
TA:	5.6 g/L

EST. 1983

