

BALLENTINE

VINEYARDS

Varietal Composition:

80% Merlot
17% Cabernet Sauvignon
2% Malbec
1% Cabernet Franc

Appellation:

Napa Valley

Harvest Date:

September 5th to September 29^h

Harvest Brix:

26.9 - 27.5°B

Barrel aging:

17 months in French oak barrels;
50% new oak

Finished Alcohol:

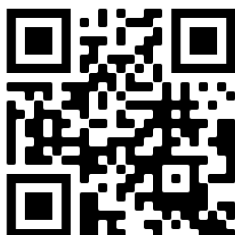
15.2%

pH:

3.62

Titrateable acidity:

6.2 g/L



2017 Merlot Estate Grown Napa Valley

Winemaking Notes:

The 2017 vintage was our best Merlot vintage to date. We have a new block of Merlot bearing fruit, and the quality has surpassed our expectations. Picked to showcase the Merlot's ripe flavors, we barrel fermented the tannins to dryness on the skins, and barrel aged for 17 months. We always like a healthy dab of Cabernet Sauvignon in our Merlot, and the other blenders add the complexity in aromatics and palate.

Vineyard Notes:

These vines are planted in one of the warmest locations in the Napa Valley. This vineyard is ideal for ripening mature tannins and flavor in our Merlot grapes. 2017 was a good growing season, so the flavor and tannin development kept pace with sugar accumulation, creating excellent, well-balanced flavors and intense color. That gave this Merlot great concentration and a silky texture. The rockier soils of this vineyard site accentuated these attributes to bring about the highest quality grapes our vineyard can yield.

Tasting Notes:

This delicious Merlot is packed with aromas of cherry, raspberry, vanilla, and toasted nuts. Big rounded tannins and fruit-forward flavors help make this a Cabernet drinker's style Merlot. There is good weight on the palate and a rich velvety texture. The fruit flavors are accented with vanilla wafer, clove, black pepper, and caramel. The well-rounded tannins make this wine easy to sip, and each sip has a lovely mouth-watering hint of acidity. Enjoy this versatile wine with steak, poultry, or other light meats, but to be honest we have no problem sitting back and enjoying it on its' own.

