



FROG'S LEAP

2018 MERLOT RUTHERFORD NAPA VALLEY

A BRIEF HISTORY

A part of our family since 1990, Merlot holds a special place in the heart of Frog's Leap as the majority of the fruit comes from the Estate surrounding our winery and historic Red Barn. Situated in the eastern part of Rutherford this vineyard is perfectly suited for growing Merlot due to its rich, clay loam soils. We have found over the years that Merlot likes "cool feet" and a "warm body." The clay soils hold more moisture keeping the root-zone cool, while the setting sun over the Mayacamas gives our vines an extra hour of evening sun. Sustainable and dry farming practices reveal the true personality of the varietal, which we describe as having red fruit flavors with a soft, supple texture. We believe that our Merlot is another great ambassador of the Frog's Leap style—elegant, balanced and restrained.

ABOUT THE WINE

At the winery, there is every expectation that we will be cellaring and enjoying the wines from the 2018 vintage for many decades to come. The vintage, quite simply, was nearly perfect and in every way, one for the ages.

As we, on regular occasions, enjoy wines from our deep cellar collection, we are constantly reminded how well our Merlots age. There is something about the succulent red fruit flavors that enrich the wine and add depth to the finish.

This particular Merlot is enormously promising in that regard. Deep red fruit, plums and cherries and ripe full of perfectly balanced flavors. You will want to enjoy it right away with a perfectly roasted chicken – but please, we beg you – put a few bottles in the cellar. J. W.



THE BLEND
96% Merlot
4% Cabernet sauvignon

RELEASE DATE
November 2020

STATISTICS
harvested —
August 13–October 23
23.2° brix at harvest
13.3% alcohol
5.4 g/L total acidity
3.54 pH
aged 18 months in French
and American oak and
concrete cubes

WINEMAKERS
John Williams
Paula Moschetti
Rory Williams

VINEYARDIST
Frank Leeds

BALANCE, RESTRAINT AND DEEP RESPECT FOR THE NATURAL EXPRESSION OF THE VINE