

2015 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

VINEYARD: Estate grown at our Mayacamas & Rutherford Estates

VARIETAL: 95% Merlot, 2.4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1.8% Petite Sirah,

0.8% Petit Verdot

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

MATURATION: Aged in 30% new French oak

FOOD AFFINITIES: LMR grass-fed beef, smoked baby back ribs, or with

barbecued pulled pork sandwiches

WINEMAKER TASTING NOTES:

The dark red color of this beautiful 2015 Napa Valley Merlot hints at its subtle plum and Crème de Cassis, but belies its rich bright red fruit aromas of cherry and raspberry. The well balanced acidity and round tannins marry well with the light oak profile on the palate giving it a length and complexity worthy of its sustainably farmed mid-Valley roots.

- Justin Carr

GROWING SEASON:

An early bud break, one of the longest flowering periods in years and a long growing season produced a vintage that shines in quality. Spring started fast and an early bloom was met with a dip in temperature, wind and rains, which slowed the development and reduced yields. The result was a small crop of extremely well-concentrated fruit that ripened fully and slowly before an early harvest in August.

LONG MEADOW RANCH:

Owned by Ted, Laddie, and Christopher Hall, LMR employs an integrated, organic farming system, using simple, sustainable methods. Each part of the Ranch contributes to the health of the whole. Vineyards and wine making, olive orchards and olive oil making, cattle and horse breeding all work together in complementary fashion, as do the egg-laying poultry flock and the organic vegetable gardens. All crops are certified organic by California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) and are grown without the use of herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers.

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