



## 2014 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

HARVESTED		September 5 - October 10, 2014
VINEYARDS		Pahlmeyer Estate
BOTTLED		May 5, 2016
COMPOSITION		93% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon
ALCOHOL		14.9%
RELEASE DATE		March 2017

### VINTAGE NOTES

The 2014 growing season was the third in a string of stunning vintages in Napa Valley. Dry, mild temperatures brought on early budbreak and harvest, while the persistent drought helped produce small berries with concentrated flavors and elegant tannins. The overall length of the growing season was normal, allowing for full ripening and fresh, balanced acidity. This year will be noted in local history for the earthquake that rocked Napa just days before harvest. Fortunately, our winery and vineyard were safe, but the greater community was deeply impacted, and the event defined the entire season.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

Grape clusters were gravity-fed onto a vibrating table where two screens sifted out materials other than grapes, and we removed by hand any fruit that did not pass visual inspection. After gentle destemming, individual berries were hand-sorted again to ensure that only the best grapes were delivered to the fermenters. The fruit underwent five days of cold maceration and two to six weeks of primary fermentation before gentle basket press. We aged the wine in 85% new Seguin Moreau Icone and Taransaud French Oak barrels for 20 months.

### TASTING NOTES

This wine has black amethyst color and a nose of boysenberry, violets, vanilla and an appealing hint of dust. The velvety palate reveals juicy red cherry and raspberry fruit, backed with an earthy kick, gripping structure, and fully integrated oak. Distinctive dark, savory notes from the Petit Verdot highlight the lingering finish.

### REVIEWS

"It has a dense purple color...with a beautiful fruited nose of blackberry, plum, chocolate, mocha and espresso. The aromatics are killer and then the wine hits the palate with a medium to full-bodied lushness and an expression that says, "Kiss me!" This is a delicious, front-end loaded, full-bodied Merlot to drink over the next 15 or so years." **94 points**, Robert Parker, December 2016