



100% ESTATE GROWN

# FIRESTONE

VINEYARD

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## 2016 CHAIRMAN SERIES MERLOT

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Founded in 1972, Firestone was the first major estate winery to sink roots in the Santa Ynez Valley. The winery's proximity to the Pacific Ocean, a mere 26 miles to the west, ensures a relatively mild and arid climate throughout the year. The moderate weather and complex, rocky soils make this a perfect setting for our 340 acres of Bordeaux, Rhone and Burgundian varieties.

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### SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

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The Santa Ynez Valley is located just two hours north of Los Angeles and five hours south of San Francisco, adjacent the cold Pacific Ocean. With the greatest concentration of wineries in Santa Barbara County - roughly 18% of its total land planted to vineyards - it is among the favorite weekend destinations for wine aficionados in the Central Coast region.

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### VINTAGE

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2016 was another vintage of both high quality and quantity of fruit. An early bud break in the third week of February and a warm spring led to a slightly earlier bloom. Summer temperatures were mild and warm resulting in a good fruit set and average yields. We harvested all the fruit on August 23 – October 8, 2016 in cool temperatures to ensure cold fruit at pressing.

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### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

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This wine expresses aromas of roasted plum and espresso with hints of boysenberry. The palate reflects flavors of lush red fruit and rich espresso with a touch of pipe tobacco. Toasty oak and balanced acidity tie the whole package together.

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AVA	Santa Ynez Valley
COMPOSITION	93% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot
ALCOHOL	14.5%
AGING	20 months in French, Hungarian and American oak, 30% new
TA	7.0 g/L
pH	3.5
CASE PRODUCTION	650
BOTTLING DATE	August 7, 2018

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