



2015  
ESTATE MERLOT  
RUTHERFORD, NAPA VALLEY

VINTAGE

2015 was a prime vintage that produced high quality fruit. An earlier than average budbreak led to harvest beginning earlier than average as well. The high temperatures in August and early September accelerated maturity and picking times. Overall the weather was nearly ideal, with conditions that allowed the grapes to have an exceptional level of acidity without being over ripe. We brought in a bountiful crop of very tasty fruit!

VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

The Foley Johnson Estate Merlot is grown on gravelly soils that provide ample drainage to decrease the vigor of foliage growth. These ideal growing conditions allow our Bordeaux varietals to reach full maturity on the vine without taking on the green leafy taste of under-ripened fruit. The Merlot was harvested September 9, 2015 under clear night skies. The wine went through 100% malolactic fermentation and was racked four times throughout the barreling process. After 20 months of aging in 40% new French, and American oak barrels, the wine was bottled in July 2017.

TASTING

Dark and bold, this 2015 Estate Merlot displays inviting aromas of plum, blackberry, and violet with earthy notes of sage, and clove. Silky tannins add body and structure to this supple wine. This is a deep, rich Merlot that delivers a truly exceptional mouthfeel while showing its elegance and complexity. Pair this dynamic wine with grilled sausages and caramelized onions or alongside a ribeye steak with fresh rosemary.

STATISTICS

APPELLATION	Rutherford, Napa Valley	ALCOHOL	14.8%
COMPOSITION	100% Merlot	TA	6.5 g/L
AGING	20 months in 40% new French, and American oak	PH	3.65
PRODUCTION	139 cases	BOTTLING DATE	July 11, 2017