



# FIRESTONE

VINEYARD



SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

## 2019 | Chairman Series Merlot

Founded in 1972, Firestone was the first major estate winery to sink roots in Santa Barbara County. 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, Rhône and Burgundian varieties.

**VINEYARDS** The grapes for this wine come from our best Merlot vineyard blocks on our estate in Santa Ynez Valley. Situated at 1,000-foot elevation on a plateau, this vineyard is comprised of gravely, sandy loam soil from sedimentary oceanic rocks containing limestone and shale, ideal soil for growing our Merlot because of its permeable qualities. During the growing season, the fog sits right on top of our vineyards, creating desirable, cool foggy morning weather, with diurnal temperature swings of 50 degrees.

**VINTAGE** 2019 had a robust amount of rain during the winter, ending the state-wide drought. We had early bud break with a mild spring and summer. Our first pick was September 11th. There was a short heat spike in early September which lasted about one week, then we were back to consistent, mild weather again, allowing us to pick each block at the optimum time.

**WINEMAKER NOTES** This bold wine is a steakhouse merlot. Aromas of roasted spiced plum, hints of cocoa, vanilla and toasty oak lead to mouthwatering acidity and layers of lush tannins. Enjoy with a New York steak, filet mignon, short ribs, or venison.

**APPELLATION** Santa Ynez Valley

**COMPOSITION** 100% Merlot

**ALCOHOL** 14.5% | **TA** 6.5 g/L | **pH** 3.61

**AGING** 22 Months in French oak | 50% new

**PRODUCTION** 495 cases

