

2018 MERITAGE “ALLUVIAL GAP” – DRY CREEK VALLEY



HISTORY

This exquisite Meritage was inspired by our decades of working with Bordeaux varietals planted in the different districts and vineyards within Dry Creek Valley. Nearly five decades of experience have provided the knowledge of which properties can provide the best fruit our region can offer. This delicious blend features fruit from specific vineyard sites within the Lytton Springs district of Dry Creek Valley, including our iconic Endeavour Vineyard.

GROWING SEASON

Following a long growing season characterized by cooler than normal temperatures throughout the spring and summer, the 2018 harvest started 5–8 days later than the past several years. The milder temperatures afforded the luxury of a longer hang time for the grapes, allowing them to fully mature while retaining a high level of acidity. Overall, the harvest was plentiful with some vineyards producing higher than average quantities. The season ended with the ideal combination of warm days and cooler nights which enabled the high quality of grapes to thrive while developing complexity and nuance.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The blend is led by Cabernet Sauvignon, with three additional Bordeaux varietals for complexity and depth. At first swirl, the wine displays powerful aromas of black currant, plum sauce and cranberry. Several more minutes reveal hints of clove, sage and chai. The palate is full and rich with flavors of black cherry, black currant and blueberry pie, with notes of fine leather, dried *herbes de Provence* and toasty oak. The tannins are firm yet supple, with a round, plush texture and a rich, lingering finish.

RELEASE DATE	October 2021
BLEND	65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Petit Verdot, 12% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc
APPELLATION	Dry Creek Valley
HARVEST DATES	October 16–24, 2018
ALCOHOL	14.1%
FERMENTATION	10–18 days in fermenters at 82–88°F; pumped over twice daily.
BARREL AGING	19 months in French oak; 40% new oak
BRIX	25.1
PH	3.65
TA	6.3 g/L
SOILS	Gravelly, clay loam
VINE AGE	17–19 years
YIELDS	3–4 tons per acre

