

2016 EASTERN BENCH MERITAGE - 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 that our region can offer. This delicious blend features fruit from specific vineyard sites in Dry Creek Valley that highlight the unique soils, microclimate and terroir of our home appellation.

GROWING SEASON

The 2016 harvest began with a relatively even growing season after welcome winter rains helped to alleviate the drought conditions. The entire ripening season enjoyed cooler than average daytime highs and cold nights – perfect for developing complex aromas and flavors. Harvest arrived earlier than usual, with a slightly smaller yield of exceptional quality fruit. September brought morning cloud cover and beautiful days with temperatures cruising along in the mid-80s, which led to delicious ripe flavors with lower sugars and higher acidity.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The 2016 vintage of our Eastern Bench Meritage highlights the intrinsic characteristics of a specific microregion within the Dry Creek Valley. At first swirl, the wine displays aromas of black cherry, spiced plum and boysenberry syrup. Several more minutes reveal hints of cinnamon, nutmeg and cocoa powder. The palate is full and rich with flavors of crème de cassis, blackberry preserves and black cherry. The tannins are firm, yet supple with a very round and silky texture. The finish lingers with notes of dark chocolate, allspice and a hint of white pepper.

90 Points
Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

RELEASE DATE	April 2019
BLEND	56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Cabernet Franc, 9% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot
APPELLATION	Dry Creek Valley
HARVEST DATES	September 23 - October 5, 2016
ALCOHOL	14.3%
FERMENTATION	Average 12 - 16 days at 82°F - 88°F, pumped over twice daily.
BARREL AGING	20 months in French and Hungarian oak; 34% new oak
BRIX	Average 26.9
PH	3.57
TA	6.4g/L
SOILS	Sandy and clay loam
VINE AGE	6 - 22 years
YIELDS	Less than 1 ton per acre

