

## 2015 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. Over four 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

A dry and warm winter began the 2015 growing season with bud break coming in early March. Cool weather came during fruit set, with not a lot of sunshine. A heat spike came in late June. However, the grapes ripened evenly and flavor and development were right where we wanted them to be. Yields were a bit down from previous vintages, but the quality was extremely high. This was one of our earliest recorded harvests with one of the earliest finishes in our history!

### WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The 2015 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 boysenberry, black raspberry and cedar. Several more minutes reveal hints of dried thyme, leather and caramel. The palate is full and rich with flavors of blackberry syrup, fresh plum and toasted vanilla. The tannins are firm, yet supple with a very round and silky texture. The finish lingers with notes of dark chocolate, cocoa and a hint of barrel spice.

RELEASE DATE	April 2018
BLEND	55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Malbec, 15% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
APPELLATION	Dry Creek Valley
HARVEST DATES	September 10 - 15, 2015
ALCOHOL	14.5%
FERMENTATION	12 - 14 days in fermenters at 82°F - 88°F; pumped over twice daily.
BARREL AGING	20 months in Hungarian, American and French oak; 43% new oak
BRIX	Average 26.4
PH	3.75
TA	5.4g/L
SOILS	Sand and clay loam
VINE AGE	6 - 21 years
YIELDS	1 - 2 tons per acre

