



MERLOT

2014 MERLOT – Dry Creek Valley

THE TASTING PANEL
June 2017

93 Points - A blend of all five Bordeaux varieties (78% Merlot), low vigor, gravelly, iron-rich soils influence concentration and minerality of this expressive red. Cherry-mocha-earth tones are scrumptious on the nose and translate to a juicy, opulent palate. Robust, with spiced black fruit as its anchor, blue flowers, ripe raspberry and red tea round out the complex finish.

WINE^{REVIEW}ONLINE.COM
June 2017

92 Points - Dry Creek Valley is one of the warmer sites in Sonoma County, which would seem to be a strike against any Merlot vineyards there. But the nights are cool and the grapes love that. This beauty exhibits freshness and balance, though richly layered and complex. It shows notes of plum and blackberry, with a hint of cedar and graphite. Despite its richness and voluptuous palate, there is a firm backbone that indicates it will improve with another three to five years in the cellar.

THE PLANET GRAPE
April 2017

91 Points - Sleek and supple with notes of chocolate covered cherry, mocha, raspberry and dried herbs.

WINE^{REVIEW}ONLINE.COM
March 2017

92 Points - Dry Creek Vineyard's Merlot is a deep, dark red wine that's deliciously lush and rich, with ripe but not overly extracted fruit flavors, plus light, dusty tannins and a generous finish. The beautifully balanced 2014 vintage includes 78% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Malbec, 2% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. Dry Creek also deserves a shout-out for supplying a generous amount of basic information on the bottle's front label describing the vineyards and their soils ("low-vigor, gravelly, iron-rich"), plus brief data about the barrels, the harvest dates, and fermentation specifics. Despite this wealth of information the label does not seem cluttered - on the contrary, it's clean and easy-to-read. Not everyone will care about the data of course, but for consumers who understand that a little knowledge can enhance the wine drinking experience Dry Creek does a great job in helping to educate us all.