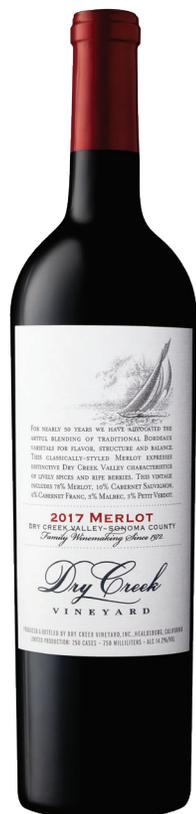


## 2017 MERLOT – DRY CREEK VALLEY



### HISTORY

Our first vintage of Merlot was released in 1974 and we have produced this classic Bordeaux varietal ever since. In fact, one of the more historic properties we planted was the Bullock House vineyard which produced several outstanding vintages of Reserve Merlot and single vineyard wines. This delicious varietal adds bright aromatics and a velvety mouthfeel as a blending component for our Bordeaux program, but is outstanding all on its own as well.

### GROWING SEASON

The 2017 growing season started off with record-setting rainfalls that were much appreciated after almost five years of drought. As flowering started, foggy and windy days, as well as unusual heat spikes made for an eclectic mix of conditions. An extreme heat wave at the end of August through the first few days of September set off a fast-paced early stretch of the harvest. At the time of the wildfires in October, nearly all of our lots had already been harvested. Despite the unusual cards that nature dealt, the 2017 vintage shows excellent concentration of flavors and outstanding varietal quality.

### WINEMAKER COMMENTS

Aromas of black cherry and cranberry immediately fill the senses. A few more moments reveal notes of marzipan, cardamom and bay leaf. The palate is full of wonderful fruity complexity, combining flavors of black current, plum, and black cherry. This wine features deep undertones of mocha, black pepper, toasted cedar, fine leather and a hint of white pepper. The finish is long and lingering with smooth and silky tannins. This beautiful wine has excellent structure and balance with a lush, round quality that lingers.

RELEASE DATE	April 2020
BLEND	76% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot
APPELLATION	Dry Creek Valley
HARVEST DATES	September 12 - October 7, 2017
ALCOHOL	14.1%
FERMENTATION	10 - 16 days in fermenters at 82 - 88°F; pumped over twice daily.
BARREL AGING	20 months in Hungarian and American oak; 31% new oak
BRIX	Average 24.8
PH	3.57
TA	6.5g/L
SOILS	Low vigor, gravelly, iron-rich
VINE AGE	7 - 22 years
YIELDS	4 - 6 tons per acre

