

2017 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

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, this vintage shows excellent concentration of flavors and outstanding varietal quality.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The blend is led by Cabernet Sauvignon, with three additional Bordeaux varietals to add complexity and depth. At first swirl, the wine displays powerful aromas of black currant, black cherry, and plum. Several more minutes reveal hints of cardamom, white pepper, and vanilla. The palate is full and rich with flavors of boysenberry, black cherry, fine leather, and dried herbs. The tannins are firm yet supple, with a very round and silky texture and the finish lingers with notes of dark chocolate, wild sage, and hints of spice.

RELEASE DATE	October 2020
BLEND	55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Petit Verdot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 2% Merlot
APPELLATION	Dry Creek Valley
HARVEST DATES	October 2–13, 2017
ALCOHOL	14.1%
FERMENTATION	12–16 days in fermenters at 82–88°F; pumped over twice daily.
BARREL AGING	19 months in Hungarian and French oak; 34% new oak
BRIX	Average 24.5
PH	3.54
TA	6.5g/L
SOILS	Gravelly, clay loam
VINE AGE	16–17 years
YIELDS	3–4 tons per acre

