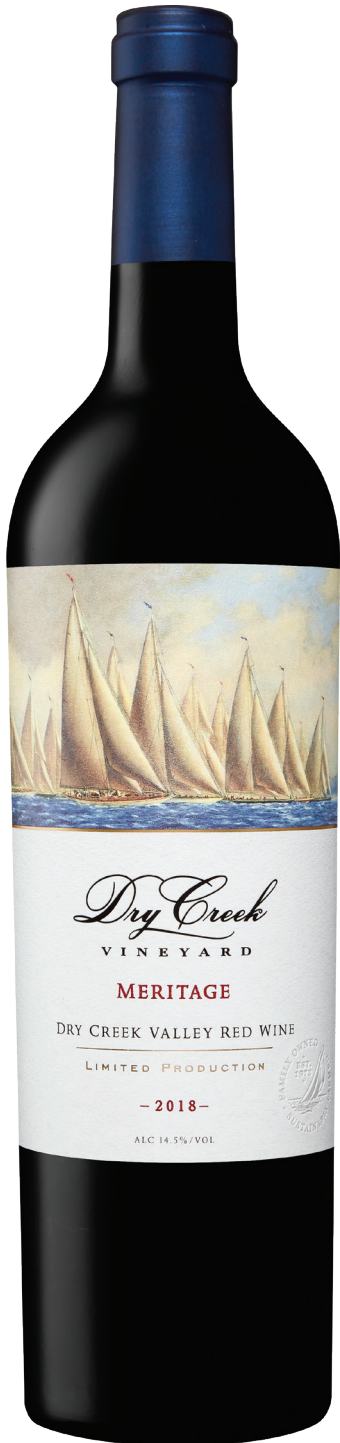




MERITAGE *Dry Creek Valley*



WINE REVIEW
ONLINE
FEBRUARY 2021

CALIFORNIA
GRAPEVINE
JANUARY 2021

WINE ENTHUSIAST
JULY 2020

2018 VINTAGE

92 Points - Dry Creek Vineyard, still owned by the Stare family, is approaching their half-century mark of making wine in Dry Creek Valley. Though I've always been a fan of their balanced wines, I think they are just getting better and better. This Merlot dominant (roughly two-thirds) Bordeaux blend is broad and lush, yet not overdone despite the 14.5 percent stated alcohol. A lovely savory, what I call "not just fruit," component offsets and balances the ripe, almost sweet, character. Though immediately appealing, as it sits in the glass complexity emerges, enhancing its appeal. Here is a well-priced wine to open the next time you're grilling a steak.

91 Points - Medium to medium-dark ruby; fragrant, ripe, herbal, dark cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of white pepper, green olive, clove, licorice, and mocha; full body; fleshy, nicely balanced, elegant, red and black fruit flavors with herbal notes and some richness in the mouthfeel; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy and enjoyable to drink now and over the next year or two. Very highly recommended.

2017 VINTAGE

90 Points - This wine leads with 69% Merlot, followed by 10% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot. Thick, concentrated black fruit and firm tannin highlight a dusty texture of cedar, sage and leather, finding balanced ripeness in the glass.