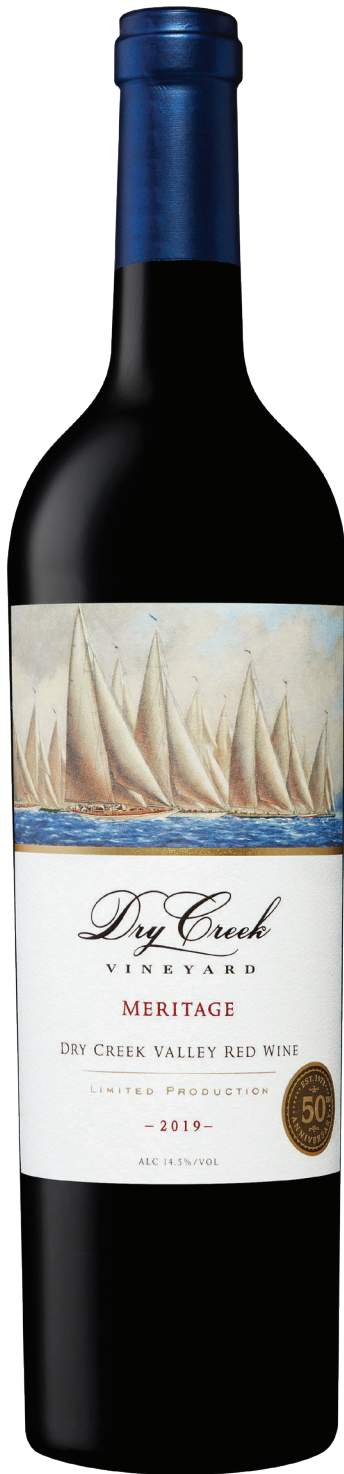




2019 MERITAGE

Dry Creek Valley



HISTORY

Since our founding in 1972, we have advocated for the artful blending of the Bordeaux varieties to achieve balance, finesse and character in our red wines. Meritage is the name given to a Bordeaux-style blend, combining the “merit” of the grape with the “heritage” of the blending tradition. In 1985, winery founder David Stare was the first vintner in California to produce a wine with “Meritage” on the label.

GROWING SEASON

Overall, 2019 was a mild growing season with a later start to the summer. This seasonal shift led to a longer hang time, which allowed for even ripening and full berry development, while retaining natural acidity. Harvest started about one week later than average compared to the last handful of vintages, and the mild growing conditions led to a very long season – fruit was being harvested for nearly 70 days! This extended season allowed us to pick each vineyard block at an ideal level of ripeness to produce balanced, flavorful wines with complexity and nuance.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The 2019 vintage is a full and complex wine that’s an absolute pleasure to drink. Aromas of plum and blackberry waft from the glass. As the wine opens up, it reveals aromas of cardamom, coriander and cedar. On the palate, the wine is plush with fine tannins and full of luxuriant flavors of black cherry, blueberry, vanilla, white pepper, clove and mocha. The finish is seamless and well-integrated. This wine will age beautifully and develop in the bottle for years to come.

BLEND

64% Merlot
14% Cabernet Franc
10% Cabernet Sauvignon
7% Malbec
5% Petit Verdot

FERMENTATION

11–16 days in fermenters at 82–88°F;
pumped over twice daily

BARREL AGING

20 months in American, Hungarian
and French oak; 29% new oak

ALCOHOL | 14.5%

BRIX | 25.2

PH | 3.65

TA | 6.4 g/L

HARVEST DATES

September 26–October 24, 2019

VINE AGE | 13–29 years

SOILS

Rocky, iron-rich soils

YIELDS

4–5 tons per acre

PREVIOUS VINTAGE

92
POINTS

wine review online
2018

91
POINTS

California GRAPEVINE
2018