

# 2021 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. 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 2021 growing season was moderate and consistent, with more typical start and end dates for our 50<sup>th</sup> harvest. Due to drought conditions, we saw less shoot growth, so we gave the vines extra care and attention when managing canopies and crop loads. The shorter shoots, combined with a below average fruit set, led to our yield being down compared to the prior year. However, the quality was very high overall!

#### WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The blend is led by Cabernet Sauvignon, with three additional Bordeaux varietals for complexity and depth. At first swirl, the wine displays powerful aromas of plum, blackberry and black currant. Several more minutes reveal hints of dusty gravel, espresso, fine leather and violet. The palate is full with flavors of black currant, cranberry sauce and clove, as well as bay leaf, cedar and dark chocolate. The wine has a beautiful, good weight with a plush texture and rich, lingering finish.

#### BLEND

76% Cabernet Sauvignon 14% Petit Verdot 6% Merlot 4% Cabernet Franc

# **FERMENTATION**

ll–l6 days in fermenters at 82–88 $^{\circ}$ F; pumped over twice daily

# BARREL AGING

20 months in French, Hungarian & American oak; 47% new oak

**ALCOHOL** | 13.8%

**BRIX** | 23.9

**PH** | 3.66

**TA** | 6.2 g/L

# HARVEST DATES

September 14-30, 2021

VINE AGE | 20–22 years

#### SOILS

Gravelly, clay loam

#### YIELDS

3-4 tons per acre

92
POINTS
WINEENTHUSIAST