



**Vintage**

2015

**Varietal**

95% Merlot  
3% Cabernet Sauvignon  
2% Malbec

**Appellation**

Oak Knoll District of  
Napa Valley

**Estate Vineyard**

100% Main Ranch

**Harvest**

September 14–30

**Oak**

18 months in (40% new)  
56% French  
30% American  
14% Hungarian

**Alcohol**

14.1%



## 2015 Merlot

Merlot flourishes in relatively cool growing regions with moist soils, making it an ideal match for certain parts of our estate vineyard, located in the Oak Knoll District of the Napa Valley, a sweet spot between warmer up-valley regions and the cool southern tip.

### The Vintage

With a warm spring, the vines got off to an early start. The weather turned cool during bloom which impacted fruit set and resulted in fewer grapes per cluster. The size of the crop was further reduced as the dry soils, from a lack of late rains, led to smaller grapes. The weather was warm throughout the summer leading right into one of our earliest harvests ever. The resulting wines are fantastic as the smaller grapes and fine weather contributed to ideal ripeness with very concentrated flavors.

### The Wine

This Merlot sets the standard for elegance with a perfume of red fruits and earthy notes and flavors of raspberry, plum and black pepper. On the palate, the wine is silky yet bright, a classic Trefethen.

### Food Affinities

Delicious with duck, barbecued chicken, lamb dishes, tomato-based pastas and mushroom pizza. A dash of freshly ground black pepper over a dish creates a lovely combination with our Merlot.

**93 POINTS** (v. 2015)

*Wine Enthusiast* July 2018

**91 POINTS** (v. 2015)

*The Tasting Panel* April 2018

**DOUBLE GOLD ~ 99 POINTS ~ BEST OF CLASS** (v. 2015)

*California State Fair Wine Competition* April 2018

**BEST OF CLASS** (v. 2015)

*San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition* January 2018

**92 POINTS** (v. 2013)

*Wine Enthusiast* September 2016

**93 POINTS** (v. 2007)

"Easily one of the best Napa Valley Merlots out there."  
Editors' Choice, *Wine Enthusiast Magazine*



TREFETHEN FAMILY VINEYARDS **ONE FAMILY. ONE ESTATE. ONE PASSION.**

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