



Vintage

2016

Varietal

86% Merlot
9% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Malbec

Appellation

Oak Knoll District of
Napa Valley

Estate Vineyard

100% Main Ranch

Harvest

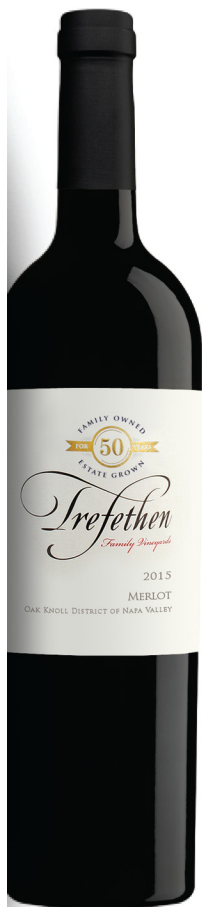
September 15–October 19

Oak

18 months, 44% new

Alcohol

14.2%



2016 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

Much of our winter rain came late, with almost 12 inches in March alone. With a very warm spring, the vines were running about three weeks early heading into the summer months. July and August were cooler than average, with foggy mornings, mild sunny afternoons and no severe heat spells. Vineyard temperatures rose again in September and harvest dates were early by about two weeks. The heat in the spring and again in the fall provided welcome bookends to the mild summer. The grapes benefited from increased hang time and showed fantastic character development.

The Wine

A deep ruby red color introduces a wine with layered aromas of black cherry, blackberry and baking spice. The palate opens with juicy red fruit, clove, and toasty oak. This Merlot is beautifully balanced with soft tannins and a luscious finish.

Food Affinities

Delicious with duck, barbecued chicken, cherry-glazed pork tenderloin, tomato-based pastas and black olive and mushroom pizza. A dash of freshly ground black pepper over a dish creates a lovely combination.

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*



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1160 OAK KNOLL AVENUE NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94558 | 866-895-7696 | WWW.TREFETHEN.COM