



Vintage
2016

Blend
47% Malbec
27% Petit Verdot
23% Cabernet Sauvignon
3% Merlot

Appellation
Oak Knoll District of
Napa Valley

Harvest
September 15–October 19

Oak
18 months, 53% new

Alcohol
14.6%



2016 Dragon's Tooth

The red dragon on the label of our Dragon's Tooth Napa Valley Red Wine originated in ancient British legend where two dragons—one red, one white—fight in the sky. The boy Merlin watches them with King Vortigern and when the red prevails, driving the white across the sea, the boy foretells the coming of King Arthur who will lead Vortigern's people, the Welsh, to victory over the invading Saxons.

Catherine Trefethen, our First Lady, was Welsh. Her loves for wine, gardens and family were the inspiration for our estate in Napa Valley's Oak Knoll District, and though she has departed, her spirit is still felt, especially in the cool foggy mornings when mist envelops the vineyard and our minds tend towards whimsical imaginings.

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

This alluring blend has rich aromas of ripe red plum, baking spices and cracked pepper. The palate is lush with flavors of cherries and dark berries. Malbec brings color and diversity of fruit; Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon lend the darker fruits and robust structure. Merlot rounds out the mid-palate and brings an elegant freshness to the wine. While in its youth, this wine will benefit from decanting before serving.

Food Affinities

This blend shines with leaner cuts of meat like flank, sirloin and skirt steak.

91 POINTS (v. 2016)

Wine Enthusiast Appearing in May 2019 issue

93 POINTS (v. 2015)

James Suckling May 2018

91 POINTS (v. 2015)

Wine & Spirits June 2018

90 POINTS (v. 2013)

Robert Parker, *The Wine Advocate* December 2015

93 POINTS (v. 2012)

James Suckling July 2015



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