

THE VOICE

MERLOT,
MOUNT VEEDER 2017
(KEITH'S BATCH #007)

Our first Merlot batch is dedicated to Keith. A lifelong Napa Cabernet Sauvignon enthusiast and a living James Bond. We meticulously crafted this complex and distinctive Merlot in a traditional Bordeaux style displaying qualities more in common with small-batch Cabernet than with the lush Merlot of the movies...

MOUNT VEEDER

Only 1% of Napa Valley's total wine production comes from Mt Veeder. Out of its 1000 acres of planted vines, 40 acres only are Merlot.

Mount Veeder is an island of ancient seabed pushed up into a mountain and blessed by volcanic soils that typify the rest of Napa Valley. Its slopes are extremely steep, above the fog, with a shallow topsoil and minimal water retention. Thus, it results in tiny berries with intense flavor concentration, yet soft tannins. The harsh setting of the terrain demands vineyard work to be done only by hand. Although Mount Veeder is blessed with the longest growing season in Napa, it is notorious to have the lowest yields.

2017 VINTAGE

A wild vintage! The year began with abundant rainfall following a historic five years of drought. Three heat waves during summer led us to harvest earlier than expected on September 15th but luckily saved us from the wildfires and smoke taint that took over the region starting October 8th.

VINEYARD

Located above 2000 ft of elevation, hillside with an angle of almost 30°. The early morning sun brings warmth to the mountain, but the maritime breezes minimize the heat in the peak of the day. Night time chill is moderated by the proximity to the bay. This has a moderating effect on the tannins in the grapes, leaving them assertive but fine, smooth in texture. These cool conditions produce a bright liveliness to the grape that is felt directly in this Merlot.

Batch #11 articulates the authentic Bordeaux character of Merlot with a touch of American ingenuity, labor and passion.

TASTING NOTES

Batch #007 politely greets the nose with aromas authentic to an age worthy classic Bordeaux. On the palate, red fruits first tingle the tongue; then immediately layers of blackberries, plum, cedar and spice attack the mid-palette. Soft tannins disguise this wine like a spy, yet the finish is long, complex and well structured.

- 100% Merlot – Unfined and unfiltered – 17 months in barrel
- 224 cases made - 100% Sustainably farmed – Low Sulfites
- Release Date: June 3rd, 2019
- Alc 13.5% - Brix 25.1 – Maceration 28 days
- Drink now – through 2030 (if you can resist)



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