

# Cakebread Cellars



## 2016 Merlot Napa Valley

### Vineyards

At Cakebread Cellars we take great pride in our collection of estate vineyards throughout the Napa Valley. This wide array of vineyard sites results in beautiful, layered wines like the 2016 Merlot. These diverse vineyard sites range from the Suscol Springs Ranch in the cooler southeastern corner of the Napa Valley, to the nutrient-rich valley floor in Rutherford, and all the way up to warmer Calistoga, at the very northern end of the region. Suscol Springs, a rocky, well-drained vineyard, is a unique site for Merlot, which stresses the vines resulting in smaller, more concentrated fruit. The famous dust of Rutherford adds another excellent, structured element. Each vineyard produces differing and distinctive grapes, resulting in a complex, multi-layered Merlot that is both bold and elegant, as well as concentrated and fresh, reflective of these varying vineyard sites.

### Vintage 2016

The vintage of 2016 began early, and offered ideal growing conditions throughout the season. Steady and mild temperatures through July and August were followed by warmer weather at the end of the growing season, which assured optimal ripening of the grapes throughout the differing Napa Valley appellations, and resulted in nicely-balanced acidity and exceptional quality wine.

### Winemaking

The separate lots of Merlot from each vineyard site were hand-harvested at night to maintain cool temperatures and integrity of the fruit. After destemming and gently crushing, the grapes were cold soaked on the skins in small lots for 48 hours prior to the start of fermentation in stainless steel. A careful pumping over of the fermenting juice fully extracted colors, flavors and tannins from the skins. The wines were moved to barrels to finish a secondary fermentation, and then aged in 44% new French oak barrels before blending in July of 2017. The final blend was then aged for an additional nine months, totaling 17 months in 44% new French oak barrels, before bottling.

### Tasting Notes

This is a savory, bold and structured wine, with a firm foundation. Hints of dried herbs, along with aromas of deep blackberry and black cherry, are evident along with mineral notes of crushed stone. The flavors are deeply concentrated with black plum, as well as fresh blackberries to match the nose. Freshness and acidity are followed by silky textures and refined, elegant tannins.

Grape variety: 82% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot,  
6% Syrah, 5% Cabernet Franc  
Vineyards: 100% Napa Valley  
Harvest dates: September, 19 – 27, 2016  
Fermentation: stainless steel tanks, oak barrels  
Barrel aging: 17 months French oak barrels, 44% new / 56% neutral  
Winemaker: Stephanie Jacobs

Total acidity: 0.68 g/100 ml  
Alcohol: 14.9%  
pH: 3.54  
Bottled: March 2018