

2018 MERLOT



This wine will change your perception of Merlot

Varietal Composition:
Merlot

Appellation:
Paso Robles

Bottling Data:
pH: 3.61
Total Acidity: 0.56g/100mL
Alcohol: 15.0% by volume

Harvest Period:
Sept 4, 2018 - Nov 13, 2018

Philosophy

The 2018 JUSTIN Merlot shows a serious side of this popular grape variety. In the past, the merlot grape had received a reputation as a soft, cushy, easygoing variety, but the 2018 Merlot proves that it can stand on its own. Full-bodied with ripe fruit, and a classic Bordeaux-style savory character and firm tannins, this wine is a complex and serious version of Merlot that announces to the world that this is a grape variety with serious intentions.

Vintage Notes

The 2018 vintage started with a cool winter with only 60% of normal precipitation, most of it occurring from late February through March. Bud break began in mid to late March. May and June alternated between warm and cool temperatures during flowering, including a few windy days that naturally reduced our yields a bit. The warm weather began in June and it was hot from mid-June through the end of July with veraison starting in the last week of July. High heat continued until mid-August causing the vines to shut down slightly, delaying ripeness and maturity, but a cooling trend later in August got things back on track. The characteristic Paso warm days and cold nights in September with the help of our calcareous soils retained natural acidity in the fruit while we waited for full ripeness and maturity. The rains stayed away allowing us to harvest our merlot blocks when they developed a perfect balance of flavor and structure.

Vinification

Fermentation: Stainless steel open and closed-top tanks with UV43 yeast and twice daily pump overs

Maturation: Barrel aged for 18 months in French oak (50% new)

Tasting Notes by Jim Gerakaris, CWE - JUSTIN Winery Sommelier

Appearance: Clear, bright with a deep ruby/purple core with a blue/black secondary color and lighter rim. Medium plus viscosity with slow forming, moderately stained tears.

Aroma: Ripe black cherry, blackcurrant and plum fruit with complex oak, barrel spice, with autumn leaf, licorice, chocolate and subtle floral notes.

Palate: Full bodied with ripe, round black fruit of plum, cherry and blackcurrant with vanilla, cinnamon spice on the entry. The mid-palate has sustained fruit mixed with savory notes of dusty sweet tobacco and camphor along with firm, mouth-filling tannins that linger through a moderately long finish. The 2018 Merlot is full bodied with full, lush fruit, savory flavors and textural elements that make this a more serious version than stereotypical Merlots. It's a great pairing with full flavored foods like a beef pot roast, or prime rib.