

Blacksmith Cellars

2018 Dry Creek Valley Merlot

Composition: 90% Merlot
8% Cabernet Sauvignon

Harvest: October 19, 2018
Sugar: 25.5 Brix
Total Acid: 0.67
PH: 3.68

Alcohol: 14.5% by Vol

Aging: 100% French Oak

Cases Produced 300 cases produced

The Vineyard: The varietals for Blacksmith Cellars' Dry Creek Merlot come from a single vineyard planted on the East side of Dry Creek Valley. Rocky hillsides with thin soils contribute to small berry size and great concentration in the fruit that is farmed to about four tons per acre.

Cellar Practices and Winemaking: All of our fruit is hand picked and hand sorted at the winery before crushing to ensure a true expression of the varietal character. The crushed fruit is cold soaked for three days to extract richness without harsh or dry seed tannins. Fermentations are done in half-ton bins and are punched down by hand three times a day.

The Wine: More suggestive of red currants than black in both scent and taste with a mannerly bit of grip, this merlot is blended with a small amount of cabernet sauvignon which escorts it to a point where the blend is a balanced, nicely contained offering of medium weight. It is not a huge and intimidating wine, but it stays in focus with a clean fruit profile that is layered with a modest amount of supporting sweet oak that helps it on its way to a lingering, gently tannic finish, and it will competently turn the trick as an affordable partner to steaks and chops now and for the coming three or four years.