

**Blacksmith Cellars**  
**2018 Stag's Leap District Merlot**

**Composition:** 95% Merlot  
5% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Harvest:** October 4th, 2018  
Sugar: 25.2 Brix  
Total Acid: 0.65  
PH: 3.57

**Alcohol:** 14.9% by Vol

**Aging:** 19 Months French Oak

**Release Date:** December 2020

**Production:** 100 Cases (750 ml)

**The Vineyard:** The Stag's Leap District of Napa Valley is one of the premier areas to grow world class Bordeaux varietals. The vineyard for this wine is in the heart of the district pushing up towards the Eastern benchlands. The vineyard is farmed to the highest standard producing about 4 tons to the acre.

**Cellar Practices and Winemaking:** All of our fruit is hand picked and then hand sorted at the winery before crushing to ensure a true expression of the varietal character. Fermentations are done in half ton bins and are punched down three times a day. About 50% of the fruit is processed as whole berries to highlight the amazing fruit character of this vineyard site. The wine is aged in French oak which includes the T5 barrel from Taransaud which is one of the rarest barrels in the industry.

**The Wine:** Sweet oak is teamed with lots of deeply drawn fruit first in the nose and then again on the palate of this composed, very well-crafted effort, and, even though it is buttressed by appropriate tannins, the wine is plump and polished and fairly refined in feel. Black Cherry and cassis with a hint of cola merge seamlessly with sweet and rich oak layers. The open and accessible flavors and integrated tannins will beg for early drinking, this cabernet has the balance and more than enough fruity substance to age famously for another five to ten years.