



## 2018 MERLOT

KNIGHTS VALLEY
SONOMA COUNTY

## TASTING NOTES

The fruit for this wine is harvested by hand from the Ehret Family's estate Bavarian Lion Vineyards located in Knights Valley. The Knights Valley AVA is protected from the marine influence of the Pacific Ocean, making it the warmest AVA in Sonoma County. The vineyards on the estate range from 400-800 feet in elevation and are located just north of Calistoga and east of Alexander Valley, on the foothills of Mount St. Helena. The unique topography and soil content make this a most desirable area to grow Bordeaux and Northern Rhône grapes. The soil consists of well drained, very gravelly and sandy loams formed from mixed sedimentary and basic rock.

## WINEMAKING NOTES

The 2018 Merlot is as rich and voluptuous a wine as this variety can be. While never lacking in suaveness, this particular bottling is bursting with flavors of Santa Rosa plum and Amarena cherries. Not wanting to be mistaken for a dilettante, this bottling doubles down with a hint of salinity coupled with a bright acidity that adds dimension to the forward fruit profile. A dash of nutmeg, a whisper of black olive, and an abundance of milk chocolate, are mid-palate flavors that round out this already stunning interpretation of this noble grape. The way in which all of these components interplay on the long, undulating finish is an experience that the experienced taster will relish.

BLEND | 86% MERLOT 14% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PH | 3.72

TA | 0.56

AGING | 18 MONTHS, 22% NEW FRENCH OAK BARRELS

PRODUCTION | 169 CASES

ALCOHOL | 15.5% BY VOLUME