



Ehret 2015 Merlot Knights Valley

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.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes:

2015 was the fourth and final year of drought for California. The dry winter kicked off the growing season to a very early start. Flowering and fruit set were impeded somewhat, but the long, dry, often hot summer ripened the fruit perfectly. Harvest went smoothly under excellent weather. Yields were way down but that resulted in remarkably dense, plush fruit flavors and aromas.

Showing aromatics of ripe açai berry, our 2015 Merlot opens with red cherry notes before a mélange of savory flavors of cocoa with white pepper and bay laurel. Further impressions of Santa Rosa plum, black raspberry fruit flavors are framed by a note of umami integrated with toast and dark chocolate. As it aerates, this medium body wine presents consistent supple tannins. Ripe berry and green tea tones appear in the smooth finish. Enjoy it over the next 5 years.

Technical Data:

Appellation:	Knights Valley, Sonoma County
Blend:	100% Merlot
Barrel Aging:	18 Months, 17% new French Oak barrels
Production:	100 cases
Alcohol:	15.2% by volume

