



## 2015 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

HARVESTED		September 4 - October 10, 2015
VINEYARDS		Pahlmeyer Estate, Las Amigas
BOTTLED		April 13, 2017
COMPOSITION		96.5% Merlot, 2.5% Malbec, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon
WINEMAKER		14.5%
ALCOHOL		Kale Anderson
RELEASE DATE		March 2018

### VINTAGE NOTES

The 2015 vintage reflects our tireless dedication to create stunning wines amidst a challenging growing season. An unusually warm spring led to early budbreak and rapid vine growth, but upon bloom, the weather turned cool and foggy which slowed development and forced a small fruit set. Summer arrived with considerable heat, propelling the grapes into early and intense flavor concentration. Ripening was then slowed by spells of unusually low temperatures. These fits and starts demanded constant readiness and precision in all our farming practices. Our team patiently and carefully walked row by row, watching for peak ripeness in each block.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

Grape clusters were gravity-fed onto a vibrating table where two screens sifted out materials other than grapes, and we removed by hand any fruit that did not pass visual inspection. After gentle destemming, individual berries were hand-sorted again to ensure that only the best grapes were delivered to the fermenters. The fruit underwent five days of cold maceration and two to six weeks of primary fermentation before gentle basket press. We aged the wine in 85% new Seguin Moreau Icone and Taransaud French Oak barrels for 20 months.

### TASTING NOTES

The 2015 Pahlmeyer Merlot has deep ruby color in the glass. Aromas of red fruit, crushed raspberries and jam mingle with notes of orange-spiced tea and blueberry muffin. On the palate, a rich entry turns soft and plush, with bright red fruit supported by balanced acidity. This is a juicy wine, with satisfying depth and length.

### REVIEWS

“There are few truly profound Merlots being made in California, but Pahlmeyer has consistently made some of the best... This is a big, fleshy, rather hefty and chewy style of Merlot with loads of chocolate, blackberry, cassis, extraordinary opulence, voluptuous texture (as you might expect) and terrific ripeness without going over the edge. This should drink well young, but age effortlessly for 20-25 years.” **93-95 points**, Robert Parker, December 2016