



2018 BENNETT VALLEY MERLOT

OUR ESTATE

Since 1977, Matanzas Creek Winery has been creating site-expressive wines in the heart of Sonoma County. We blend artistry with storytelling by embracing a mosaic of grape clones, along with innovative fermentation techniques, to unlock the full potential of each varietal. Our wines are not just exceptional in taste; they capture the unique terroir of Sonoma County. All of our estate vineyards are certified by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, ensuring each bottle of Matanzas Creek Winery wine embodies the essence of Sonoma County for a better tomorrow.

WINEMAKING

Bennett Valley's coastal influence makes it an ideal place to grow Right Bank Style Merlot. The cool nights and warm heat during the day complement this Merlot which is planted on Clone 181, informally called Petrus Clone. With an ample variety of soils and different rootstocks, the Bennett Valley Merlot produces berries with blue fruit nuances, inky color and texture with age-worthy acidity.

WINE PROFILE

COLOR: Deep garnet

AROMAS & FLAVORS: Black cherry, boysenberry, black mission fig, black plum, baking spice, black licorice, cocoa, coffee/espresso, sandalwood, white pepper, iron-rich, fresh tarragon, tobacco.

PALATE: Juicy, bright red fruit notes with nice acidity, velvety tannins, and a long, elegant finish.

PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: Serve slightly chilled, at cellar temp, 65°F. Pair with beet salad with sesame dressing, cassoulet with sausage, oxtail stew, or Moroccan lamb tagine.

VINTAGE NOTES

2018 started off with a rainy spring, and set harvest records for size and dazzling quality. The growing season was a bit cooler, allowing grapes to ripen gradually and develop more complex flavors and aromas with the extended hang time. The Merlot grapes used in this wine were primarily sourced from our Jackson Park Vineyard, bringing balance and power to the final blend.

TECHNICAL NOTES

WINEMAKER

Marcia Torres Forno

APPELLATION

Bennett Valley

ALCOHOL

14.4%

PH

3.5

COMPOSITION

98% Merlot,
1% Petit Verdot,
1% Cabernet Sauvignon

ÉLEVAGE

Aged 19 months
in French oak, 32% new

TA

6.3 g/L

CASES PRODUCED

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