



## 2015 MERLOT, BENNETT VALLEY

### OUR ESTATE

For the past four decades, Matanzas Creek Winery has focused on creating site-expressive wines. Throughout the years our methodology has remained the same: utilize a range of vineyard clones and fermentation vessels, and explore new farming and winemaking techniques, to produce thoughtfully crafted, expressive, and balanced wines. Today, all Matanzas Creek Winery estate vineyards are sustainably farmed and are certified under the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance.

### 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 compliment 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

Intense aromatics of boysenberries and blueberries coming with floral notes of lilac and a hint of black cardamom with long pepper flirting in the glass. A rich palate with savory notes of sweetness come from the toasted oak. The mouthfeel is seductive, elegant and velvety with age-worthy acidity.

### VINTAGE NOTES

With vineyard bloom two weeks ahead of the average harvest date, grapes were maturing at lower Brix levels than normal. Fruit set was light, with small, concentrated grape clusters resulting in flavorful, aromatic wines. The 2015 Bennett Valley Merlot is a serious vintage and produced age worthy wines.

### TECHNICAL NOTES

WINEMAKER  
Marcia Torres Forno

COMPOSITION  
100% Merlot,

APPELLATION  
Bennett Valley

ÉLEVAGE  
35% new French oak  
65% neutral French oak

ALCOHOL  
14.7%

TA  
6.3 g/L

PH  
3.52

RS  
0.4 g/L

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