

ST. FRANCIS WINERY & VINEYARDS

## Sonoma County Merlot 2019

*America / Sonoma County*

The grapes come from estate vineyards in the Sonoma and Russian River valleys, as well as from growers in Sonoma County's other top appellations, including Alexander Valley and Rockpile. All grapes are hand harvested, gently destemmed and crushed before cold soaking to extract optimal color and flavor. The fruit is then inoculated with many different yeast strains to build complexity, and fermented in separate lots using a combination of pump-overs and rack-and-return to soften tannins. The wine is matured in oak barrels.

### HARVEST NOTE

The 2019 harvest began before dawn on August 30 after a growing season that started with record rainfall during winter and ended with warm, even temperatures. With few heat spikes, the vineyards had optimal conditions to develop full-flavored fruit with remarkable color and balanced acidity. Spring rains ended in time for good fruit set and the temperate summer allowed for long hang times and consistent, even ripening. Winemakers picked the majority of the fruit in September and the weather continued to cooperate through the end of harvest in October.

### TASTING NOTE

Intense aromas of cherry compote, black licorice and dark chocolate followed by flavors of ripe plum, dried fig and bright Ranier cherry.

### TECHNICAL DATA

GRAPES: 100% Merlot

APPELLATION: Sonoma County

ABV: 14.8%

AGING: 16 months in French oak, 25% new

### UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- A classic California Merlot with luscious hints of plum and chocolate
- Matured for 14 months in oak barrels for a complex flavor



"Spicy, yet smooth and silky, this luscious wine pairs perfectly with any occasion."  
Chris Louton, Winemaker