

# CLOS LACHANCE

VINEYARDS

## 2017 ESTATE MERITAGE

The Estate Red Wine is done in a Bordeaux Style and is a true representation of a California Meritage. The wine is crafted out of the finest lots of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot from the Estate Vineyard. Blends are a true representative of the winemaker's craft and the best possible wine he can make. Utilizing each of the varietals for different components rounds out the blends mouth feel and creates balance in the final product.

### HARVEST NOTES

In 2017 winemakers and vineyard owners rejoiced in unison from the ideal weather at bud break in the spring, right through perfect ripening temperatures through October and until the last grape was harvested. The winter prior to the 2017 growing season was wet and supplied well above average rain fall to drench the soil profile and create an optimal environment for a fruitful 2017 season. The rain subsided in early spring allowing the vines to dry out and utilize the full water profiles in the soil to gain great early season vigor. Perfect temperatures through fruit set and into the summer allowed for higher than average yields and more clusters on the vine than had been seen in the previous 3 vintages. Warm late summer temperatures gave us long hang time and perfectly ripened grapes on the vine. 2017 will go down as an above average year for yields and a well above average year for quality.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

The Estate Red Wine comes from the premier reserve blocks on the Clos LaChance Estate Vineyard. The grapes are handpicked and hand sorted and then cold soaked for 48 to 72 hours to maximize tannin and color extraction. The must is inoculated and pumped over for 4 times a day during peak fermentation. The pump overs help to extract the tannins and color out of the skins and seeds to maximize complexity and structure in the wine. The different varietals in the blend are kept separate for the first year of aging on oak, then blended and aged together for the remaining months to create a symbiotic relationship between all flavor and aromatic compounds. The wine is aged in 100% French Oak of which 35% is New oak. The final blend is fine-tuned prior to bottling where different varietals can come together to create the final wine which embodies a perfect balance of characteristics.

### TASTING NOTES

**Color:** Dark Red and slightly to not opaque

**Aroma:** Cola, Blackberry, Dried Herbs and Cocoa

**Flavor:** Cola, Dried Cherries, Tea Leaf and Chocolate

**Structure:** Medium Tannins, Medium to High Acid, Medium to Heavy Bodied

**Pairing:** Mushroom Risotto, Seared Ahi with Garlic Mashed Potatoes

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

**Vineyard:** 100% Estate Vineyards

**Blend:** 40% Petit Verdot, 27% Cabernet Franc, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot

**Aged:** 65% Neutral French Oak, 35% New French Oak

**Harvest date:** 10/2-10/31/17

**Average Brix at Harvest:** 25.0

**pH:** 3.54

**TA:** 0.69

**Bottling Date:** 7/17/19

**Alcohol %:** -14.5%



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