



MIDNIGHT

C E L L A R S

2018

ESTATE MERLOT

WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT
PASO ROBLES, CA

TASTING NOTES

Incredibly dark and well-structured. This 100% Estate Merlot underwent an extended maceration period of 60 days! The aromatic components of plum and allspice are very true to varietal. A giant structured mouthfeel and flavors of blackberry, vanilla, minerals, and spice mingle playfully on the palate. Drink now thru 2035 if you can wait that long!

ACCOLADES 89 Wine Enthusiast

WINEMAKER Rich Hartenberger

VARIETAL COMPOSITION 100% Merlot

COOPERAGE 25% new French oak, 75% neutral

BARREL AGING 30 months

pH / TA 3.42 / 0.68 g/L

RESIDUAL SUGAR 0.05%

ABV 14.9%

PRODUCTION 250

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2018 vintage saw an almost ideal balance of vine health and stress, as is often the case with the first dry year after a very wet one. The rain came late, delaying the onset of budbreak and the beginning of the growing season. The cool weather continued most of the year, punctuated by a six-week heat wave in July and early August. Temperatures moderated before picking began and harvest proceeded under slightly cooler than normal conditions, producing fruit with intense flavors and balanced acidity.



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