

Midnight Cellars

88 points **Wine & Spirits**

2016 ESTATE MERLOT

Midnight Cellars Vineyard
Willow Creek District
Paso Robles
California

WINEMAKER

Rich Hartenberger

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Merlot

COOPERAGE

15% new French oak
85% Neutral

BARREL AGING

24 Months

pH / TA

3.44 / 0.660 g/L

BRIX

24

RS

0.05%

ABV

15.9%

PRODUCTION

322 cases



VINTAGE NOTES

The 2016 vintage started off with some respectable weather through bloom and set. Our first bit of 100-degree weather came during the sizing phase which effected the berry growth on many of our varietals. In September, the ripening was lengthened with the hot and cool temperature swings. Overall, winemakers are optimistic about the yields, with no significant factors like freezes or prolonged heat spikes affecting the crop.

TASTING NOTES

This 100% Merlot is, as always, very dark in color and richly provoking with its nose of smoky, earthy, plum and leather. The mouthfeel is full with structured tannin from the black fruit, ripe plum, earth and mineral flavor profiles. Dense and dusty tannins carry into the impossibly long finish with a chalkiness that features the true influence of Midnight's estate calcareous soil.

WINEMAKER NOTES

"Merlot is the new Merlot!"

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