



MIDNIGHT

C E L L A R S

2017

ESTATE MERLOT

WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT,
PASO ROBLES, CA

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	Rich Hartenberger
VARIETAL COMPOSITION	100% Estate Merlot
COOPERAGE	15% new French oak, 85% neutral
BARREL AGING	24 Months
pH / TA	3.44/0.660 g/L
RESIDUAL SUGAR	0.05%
ABV	15.9%
PRODUCTION	360



The 2017 vintage saw our drought end with a bang. The wet soils delayed bud-break to a normal time frame and produced such a healthy vineyard that we saw canopy sizes and cane lengths we hadn't seen in years. The summer began relatively cool but was punctuated by two heat spikes that accelerated ripening and produced intense flavors. The resulting vintage shows the health of the vines with a combination of concentration and freshness with bright acids framing powerful fruit.

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