



# 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!

<b>WINEMAKER</b>	Rich Hartenberger
<b>VARIETAL COMPOSITION</b>	90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot
<b>COOPERAGE</b>	25% new French oak, 75% neutral
<b>BARREL AGING</b>	30 months
<b>pH / TA</b>	3.42 / 0.68 g/L
<b>RESIDUAL SUGAR</b>	0.05%
<b>ABV</b>	14.9%
<b>PRODUCTION</b>	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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