



# 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 | 89 Vinous

**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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