

WATERSTONE

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2017 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

Vintage

Abundant winter rains refreshed groundwater supplies and led to a cool, mild spring in 2017; an unusual hailstorm in June had little effect on the crop. The summer brought warmer temperatures, leading to 90% of the valley's harvest before the wine country wildfires started on October 8. The vintage is being described as opulent, velvety, concentrated, dense and possessing layers and depth.

Vineyards

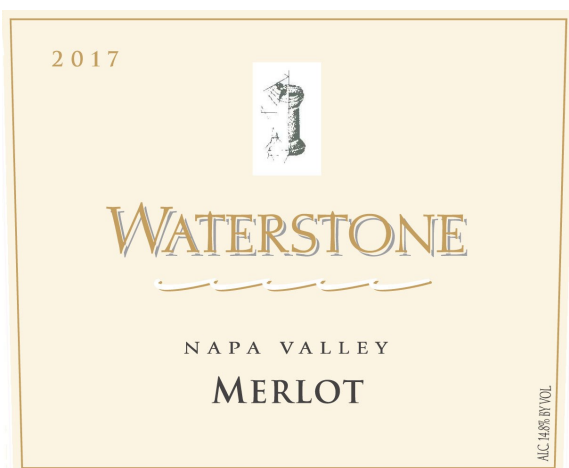
The backbone of this Merlot is derived from the Truchard Vineyard in Carneros, where the appellation begins its ascent into the Mayacamas mountain range. The small berry clusters and intense fruit from low-yielding vines create a wine with full flavor and longevity. The vineyard blocks are under long-term contracts, providing consistency from vintage to vintage.

Vinification

Vineyard blocks were hand-picked at the peak of maturity. Following harvest, the grapes were gently crushed and fermented. The wines were then aged in small French oak barrels with extended lees contact for 22 months. 31% new barrels were used to maintain maximum fruit flavors with a good balance of toasty oak.

Tasting Notes

Aromas of black cherries and ripe raspberries mingle with notes of dark chocolate, vanilla, and spicy oak. The palate is fresh and full-bodied with plush tannins and a long finish.



Technical Data:

Varietal Composition	94% Merlot 6% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Napa Valley
Alcohol	15.2%
TA	0.67g/100ml
pH	3.43
Oak Aging	22 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 31% new
Bottling Date	December 10, 2019
Production	893 cases