

# WATERSTONE

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## 2018 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

### Vintage

*After abundant rains in February, both bud break and flowering occurred a bit late but under ideal weather conditions. A mild summer brought generous sun (and no heat spikes) during the day and cool marine influences, while moderate heat in the fall extended harvest dates into October. The long hangtime produced fruit with great flavor complexity and phenomenal phenolic development.*

### 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 20 months. 27% new barrels were used to maintain maximum fruit flavors with a good balance of toasty oak.*

### Tasting Notes

*This Merlot delivers multi-layered aromas and flavors of ripe black cherries, fresh-baked brioche, vanilla bean and dark chocolate. A medium-bodied wine with plush tannins and a long finish of fresh blackberries.*



### Technical Data:

Varietal Composition	87% Merlot 7% Cabernet Franc 3% Cabernet Sauvignon 3% Petite Sirah
Appellation	Napa Valley
Alcohol	15.1%
TA	0.63g/100ml
pH	3.54
Oak Aging	20 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 27% new
Bottling Date	January 19, 2021
Production	728 cases