

# WATERSTONE

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## 2015 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

### Vintage

2015 was one of the earliest harvests on record in Napa Valley; a dry, warm winter with only 75% of normal precipitation resulted in small grape clusters with highly concentrated flavors. Bud break was early, and there was an uneven fruit set due to a long flowering period; this led to a lighter crop. A surge in hot temperatures in the final weeks of harvest brought the last of the crop in quickly. Overall, the 2015 vintage was early and light, with wines showing richness and deep flavor.

### Vineyards

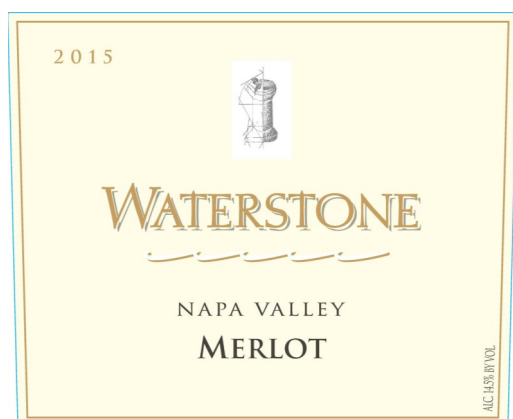
The backbone of this Merlot is derived from the Truchard Vineyard in Carneros, where 80% of the grapes are sourced from a relatively cool region. The balance of Merlot fruit is sourced from the Sunseri Vineyard in Chiles Valley, adding layers of bright fruit to the palate. The small berry clusters and intense fruit from low-yielding vines create a wine with full flavor and longevity. Both vineyards are under long-term contracts, providing consistency from vintage to vintage.

### Vinification

Vineyards 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 18 months. Only 15% new barrels were used to maintain maximum fruit flavors with just a hint of toasty oak.

### Tasting Notes

Spiced plum, baking spices and cedar predominate in the aroma. A structured and medium-bodied Merlot with rounded tannins and lingering notes of black and red cherries.



### Technical Data:

Varietal Composition	97% Merlot 2% Petite Sirah 1% Cabernet Sauvignon
Appellation	Napa Valley
Alcohol	15.0%
TA	0.58g/100ml
pH	3.55
Oak Aging	18 months
Oak Cooperage	French oak, 15% new
Bottling Date	July 24, 2017
Production	747 cases