

VARIETAL COLLECTION

*Merlot*

2018

Vintage:	Fifth
Composition:	100% Merlot
Clone:	1, 3, and 181
Appellation:	Napa Valley, Coombsville District
Vineyard:	Caldwell Vineyard Estate, Established 1981
Block:	14, 17
Yield:	3.0 Tons per Acre
Average Vine Age:	33 Years
Grape Varieties:	See Composition Section
Rootstock:	3309 and 5C
Harvest Date:	Multiple

**Vintage Summary:** The 2018 growing season was ideal for almost every varietal, clone, rootstock, and age group of vine. Long, temperate, and void of rain and heat spikes during critical phenological ripening steps, Mother Nature provided winemakers and vineyard managers very little stress, while perfectly stressing the fruit. A perfect way to come off the disturbing fire-riddled vintage of 2017, 2018 will go down in history as one of the highest quality and abundant vintages of all time. Every wine in our lineup has a backbone of structure, power, and verve but are strongly defined by varietal purity and elegance.

Fermentation Vessel:	Stainless and French Oak
Yeast:	Multiple
ML Bacteria:	Multiple
Wood Origin:	French Oak (Jupilles, Bercé)
Ageing:	100% French Oak, 80% New, for 18 Months
Fining:	None
Filtering:	Unfiltered
Alcohol:	15.1%
Bottled on:	July 8, 2020

**Winemaker's Tasting Notes:** It is not every year that we make a Varietal Collection Merlot, but with 2018's impeccably long growing season, we knew we could make something special. Aromatics are primarily red, but hit parts of the entire spectrum, encapsulating a core of clear cassis and ethereal white flowers. The palate is supple yet beautifully refined with a center of ripe raspberries surrounded by layers of graphite, lavender, and a lite brambly spice. Tannins are still very young, but in typical Merlot fashion provide quite the quaff-ability in their youth.

Optimal Drinking Period:	Now – 10 Years
Production:	54 Cases
Price:	\$125 / 750ml

