

BARNETT VINEYARDS  
*Spring Mountain District*  
NAPA VALLEY

**Merlot**  
**Spring Mountain District**  
**2014**

<b>Harvest Date:</b>	September 17 <sup>th</sup> , and October 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
<b>Grape Source:</b>	Spring Mountain District, Estate
<b>Blend:</b>	82% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc
<b>Aging:</b>	22 months in French Oak Barrels 60% new and 40% a range of 2-4 year old
<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.8%
<b>Total Production:</b>	47 barrels
<b>Release Date:</b>	October 2016
<b>Winemaker:</b>	David Tate

**Vintage Notes:** The 2014 vintage atop Spring Mountain was the third in a string of three great vintages. There was not much of a winter, with far below average rainfall. A moderate spring lead into a record breaking summer for high temperatures. However the diurnal effect from our mountain top allowed for very cool nights aiding the vine in slowing down any rapid ripening of the fruit. With a warm fall the Merlot was picked earlier than in the last 15 years of our making Merlot here. This involved cautious monitoring with a great understanding that every year is different.

**Winemaker Notes:** This Merlot comes from higher elevations on Spring Mountain. It is picked in the dark hours of the morning to ensure it arrives cool and undamaged. The Merlot spent an average of 16 days on its skins with an average of 13 days of maceration. After which the wine spent 22 months in French cooperage, 60% new. Months before bottling, during our assemblage tasting, we determined that 18% Cabernet Franc, from a similar elevation on Spring Mountain, perfected the blend by adding more backbone and spice.

**Tasting Notes:** The 2014 Merlot has a beautiful deep purple core and rim. There is great intensity to the aromatics, with dark plum and black cherries, complemented by caramel, menthol and anise. The palate is very silky and plush with more black cherry, crushed violets and baking spices. The tannins are chalky but integrated into this sizeable wine, and the mountain acidity is bright and balanced. This opulent flavorful Merlot will definitely benefit from those with patience over the next 12-13 years (2028-2029).