

BARNETT VINEYARDS
Spring Mountain District
NAPA VALLEY

Merlot
Spring Mountain District
2016

Harvest Date:	September 29 th , and October 2 nd , 2016
Grape Source:	Spring Mountain District, Estate
Blend:	93% Merlot, 4.5% Cabernet Franc, and 2.5% Petit Verdot
Aging:	22 months in French Oak Barrels 60% new and 40% a range of 2-4 year old
Alcohol:	14.8%
Total Production:	44 barrels
Release Date:	October 2018
Winemaker:	David Tate

Vintage Notes: In 2016 we returned to what Napa is famous for, temperate seasons. A positive amount of rain fell over the winter months, followed by a warm spring. Summer was moderately hot and fall was nearly perfect with its warm days and cool nights. After a year like 2015 it was nice to return to a decent crop (2 tons per acre) hanging on our usually very low yielding mountain fruit. The fruit developed wonderfully amongst a warm September, with the fruit coming from our estate as well as a neighboring vineyard that we have estate control over.

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 15 days on its skins with an average of 12 days of maceration after which the wine spent 22 months in French cooperage, 60% new. It was apparent early on that the soft velvety Merlot needed a bit more structure. Different amounts of Cabernet Franc were trialed, but for the first time we trialed in a splash of Petit Verdot (2.5%) and it brought the structure around immediately.

Tasting Notes: The 2016 Spring Mountain District Merlot is beautiful deep dark purple. Rich black plum, violets and fresh blackberries fill the glass. Further aromatics of cinnamon, white pepper and gravel pop out. The wine is stereotypically rich and lush as is expected from low yielding mountain Merlot. The palate is more blueberries and mocha, with beautifully integrated chalky tannins. The acidity is softer than previous years but still within balance alongside a lingering plum finish. This wonderfully lush Merlot will age nicely over the next 10-11 years (2028-2029).