

FREEMARK ABBEY



NAPA VALLEY

2016  
MERLOT

*Bosché Vineyard, Rutherford, Napa Valley*

**DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING-** *Ted Edwards*

**ASSOCIATE WINEMAKERS-** *Jesus Alfaro, Barrett Anderson*

### VINTAGE AND WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Dark ruby, the 2016 Merlot Bosche has great depth of flavor. expressing dark fruit like brambly blackberry and rich Bing cherry. The bouquet has nuances of aromatic cedar, dark chocolate, espresso, baking spices and vanilla. The oak spice is very well integrated, not dominant but provides a substantial backbone to the complexity of the wine balancing the abundance of fruit depth. The flavor is big, voluptuous, soft and velvety, with rich, great depth of black cherry fruit. The tannins are well integrated providing a very long fruitful finish.

### PRIMARY VINEYARDS

Bosché Vineyard—Rutherford (100%): Located west of Hwy. 29, on the famed Rutherford Bench, the Bosché vineyard has very deep gravelly soils. A seasonal creek crosses the vineyard which causes the water table to be high in the spring, providing water and nutrients for new shoot growth. As veraison approaches the water table drops, stressing the wines and intensifying the dark velvety fruit flavors. This is a natural area to grow Bordeaux varietals with dry farming or minimal drip irrigation.

### GROWING SEASON NOTES

The winter continued a dry weather pattern and bud break was early. The growing season was moderate, near ideal, and on an early pace. Most varieties were harvested in September with a final wrap up on October 10th...getting it all in before any rains developed.

### COMPOSITION:

99% Merlot  
1% Cabernet Sauvignon

### AGE OF VINES & SOIL TYPE

3.2 acres planted in 1996

### HARVEST DATES AND SUGAR:

9/06 for Merlot @ 25.3° Brix

### FERMENTATION:

After a 5 day cold soak, the wine was fermented in stainless steel fermentors at 75°-86° for 10-28 days skin contact

**ALCOHOL:** 14.7%    **PH:** 3.38    **ACID:** 0.66g/L

### AGING:

59 gallon barrel aging  
Barrels: French oak with 40% new oak  
Cooperage: World Cooperage, Nadalie, Sylvain, Demptos and Marchive  
Aged in Barrel: 16 months

### LIFE SPAN IN PROPER CELLAR:

20-25 years

### NUMBER OF CASES PRODUCED:

456

### BOTTLED:

March 2018