

FREEMARK ABBEY



NAPA VALLEY

Wine Type: Stage Coach Merlot

Vintage: 2017

Winemakers: Ted Edwards, Kristy Melton

Percentage of each grape variety used: 100 % Merlot

Stage Coach Vineyard—Atlas Peak (100%) These grapes were sorted from the Atlas Peak area of the Stage Coach Vineyard, located north east of Napa at approximately 1500 ft elevation. Composed of ancient volcanic soils, the vineyard is carved out of rocky terrain, sage brush and chaparral. The grape vines struggle in this environment, creating grapes that are small and very concentrated. The Merlot grapes ripen very evenly, yielding great dark cherry depth with an incredible distinctiveness that can only be derived from the terroir of Stage Coach.

Growing Season Notes: Abundant winter rains helped refresh the groundwater and our reservoirs after several years of drought. The vines responded with plenty of growth. The summer had a few heat spells. The harvest was warm, slightly early in general. Yield was a little bit below average. The fruit was harvested before the October fires.

Harvest Dates and Sugar: Harvest was on 9/5 and 9/26 at an average of 25.2 degrees brix.

Age of Vines and Soil Type: The vines were planted in 2000, the soils are volcanic, craggy and rocky (see vineyard description)

Fermentation: After a five day cold soak, the fermentation was in stainless steel fermenters at 75-86 deg for 10-28 days skin contact

Alcohol: 14.7 **pH:** 3.60 **Acid:** .59

Aging: Barrels: French **Cooperage:** World Cooperage % of new wood: 32% **Aged in Barrel:** 15 months

Number of Cases Produced: 587 Bottled March 2019

Life span in a proper cellar: 15 years +

Vintage and Winemaker's Notes: Ruby red with a touch of garnet, the Stagecoach merlot is very distinctive with a sense of place. The aroma has the essence of blueberry, black olive, dried cherries and herbal spices. The fruit is integrated with spicy toasted oak, black pepper, cigar box, beef jerky and dried molasses. Dark cherry and plum, with a floral undertone, are the primary flavors on a bed of resolved pleasant tannin structure. The depth of fruit coupled with the richness of flavor, provides a profile that delivers from initial sip, one that continues on the palate for a very long finish....enjoy.