



2018 BENNETT VALLEY MERLOT

OUR ESTATE

Since 1977, Matanzas Creek Winery has been creating site-expressive wines in the heart of Sonoma County. We blend artistry with storytelling by embracing a mosaic of grape clones, along with innovative fermentation techniques, to unlock the full potential of each varietal. Our wines are not just exceptional in taste; they capture the unique terroir of Sonoma County. All of our estate vineyards are certified by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, ensuring each bottle of Matanzas Creek Winery wine embodies the essence of Sonoma County for a better tomorrow.

WINEMAKING

Bennett Valley's coastal influence makes it an ideal place to grow Right Bank Style Merlot. The cool nights and warm heat during the day complement this Merlot which is planted on Clone 181, informally called Petrus Clone. With an ample variety of soils and different rootstocks, the Bennett Valley Merlot produces berries with blue fruit nuances, inky color and texture with age-worthy acidity.

VINTAGE NOTES

2018 was larger than life. Characterized by a long and cooler growing season. Diligent vineyard practices, such as leaving more leaves to shade the clusters on the warmer days, illustrated the impact of small cultural practices that can make a huge difference in the finished wines. Overall, temperatures were mild and facilitated slower, longer ripening resulting in high density of flavors and aromas while maintaining outstanding natural acidity.

WINE PROFILE

COLOR: Deep gamet

AROMAS: Black cherry, boysenberry, black mission fig, cocoa.

FLAVORS: Baking spices coffee, sandalwood, white pepper, iron-rich tobacco.

PALATE: Juicy, bright red fruit with notes of nice velvety tannins and a long elegant finish.

SERVING SUGGESTIONS: Serve slightly chilled, at cellar temp 65°F. Pair with beet salad with sesame dressing, cassoulet with sausage, oxtail stew, or Moroccan lamb tagine.

TECHNICAL NOTES

WINEMAKER Marcia Torres Forno	APPELLATION Bennett Valley	ÉLEVAGE Aged 18 months in French oak barrels, 30% new	TA 6.3 g/L
COMPOSITION 97% Merlot 2% Petite Verdot 1% Cabernet Sauvignon	VINEYARD(S) 100% Jackson Park Vineyard	ALCOHOL 14.4%	PH 3.5 CASES 207

