



W.S. Keyes Vineyard

**2016 MERLOT
NAPA VALLEY**

HISTORY

About 125 years ago, two men, Winfield S. Keyes and Frederick Hess, had the foresight to plant vineyards on Howell Mountain just a mile from each other. The W.S. Keyes Vineyard was planted in 1888, and ten years later, fellow Howell Mountain pioneer Frederick Hess established the La Jota Vineyard, Co. The rocky, shallow soils, the abundance of wind and fog, and the remoteness of Howell Mountain terroir were reminiscent of Europe where some of the best wines in the world were being produced. Keyes and Hess believed that Napa Valley could achieve the same distinction – and they were right. Both men achieved recognition for their wines at the Paris Exposition of 1900, bringing instant fame to Howell Mountain.

Built of stone in 1898, the La Jota Vineyard Co. continues the legacy of crafting world-renowned wines from Howell Mountain, including this single-vineyard estate Merlot, sourced from the W.S. Keyes Vineyard.

VINEYARD

The vineyard sits at an elevation of 1,600 feet, well above the fog that frequently rolls into Napa Valley in the evening, resulting in nights that are slightly warmer than those in the valley below. Meanwhile, the high altitude keeps daytime temperatures cooler. Harvest comes later, and the long hang-times allow for the development of deep, complex flavors. The grapes for this wine come from the oldest and most prized block of the W.S. Keyes Vineyard.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

"2016 had an early beginning as we had a near perfect spring season. The growing conditions during the summer had few extremes, however, the ripening period was almost ideal with a brief late September heat spike. Just a touch of rain rounded out the end of October wrapping up a great season overall."

- Christopher Carpenter, *Winemaker*

TECHNICAL NOTES

BLEND COMPOSITION

77% Merlot
23% Cabernet Sauvignon

VINEYARD

W.S. Keyes Vineyard

HARVEST DATES

September 25 - October 22

FERMENTATION

Native yeast fermentation
in open and closed top fermentors

BARREL AGING

20 months in French oak
(93% new)

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

15.1%

ELEVATION

1,600' - 1,875'

SOILS

Volcanic, alluvial, shallow, infertile

VITICULTURE

Planted in 1888
Replanted in 1986

CLONE

3

ACCLAIM

98 Points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, *Robert Parker Wine Advocate*, October 2018