

BARNETT VINEYARDS
Spring Mountain District
NAPA VALLEY

Merlot
Spring Mountain District
2015

Harvest Date:	September 22 nd and 30 th and October 3 rd 2015
Grape Source:	Spring Mountain District, Estate
Blend:	84% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc
Aging:	22 months in French Oak Barrels 60% new and 40% a range of 2-4 year old
Alcohol:	14.7%
Total Production:	39 barrels
Release Date:	October 2017
Winemaker:	David Tate

Vintage Notes: Although the 2015 vintage was one of the lowest yields we have ever seen, the Cabernet Sauvignon was down 50%, the Merlot did not suffer the same fate being down only 20% in yield. The season itself was very hot, and set another record for the hottest year. After summer the long warm autumn allowed us to pick at our leisure, but beating last year's record for the earliest that we have picked our Merlot. The lower yields and amazing Spring Mountain soil resulting in some very concentrated wine.

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 13 days of maceration. After which the wine spent 22 months in French cooperage, 60% new. The lushness of the 2015 Merlot needed to be balanced so 13% Cabernet Sauvignon was added to provide more structure. The 2% Cabernet Franc added an extra dimension of spice to the nose.

Tasting Notes: The low yields of the 2015 vintage resulted in this being the darkest Merlot that we have made. Opaque purple in color this nose is dark and intense. Blueberry concentrate and black pepper are matched by charred wood and crushed violets. The palate is extremely rich and viscous with black raspberry and nutmeg. The Cabernet Sauvignon tannins help balance out the lushness with some soft but present tannins. The acidity is sharp and focused. There is a long ripe blueberry finish. This immense Merlot will age wonderfully over the next 12-13 years (2029-2030).