

## 2014 MTGA Merlot

Appellation: Napa Valley

Grower: Antonio Castellucci

Blend: 100% Merlot

Aging: 22 months in once and twice used French oak and one year in bottle

Case Production: 150 cases

### Production Notes:

The 2014 Merlot started out very similar to prior vintages. As the drought in California continued we saw some amazing flavor and complexity evolve in the vineyard. In early September our Merlot was harvested and we separated it into four distinct lots for fermentation. As the fermentation process wrapped up lots were drained and pressed off for barrel aging.

Once and twice used French oak barrels were utilized to maintain the awesome fruit characteristics but add a subtle touch of oak character. As is tradition with our Merlot, the 2014 release was also left un-fined and unfiltered to provide added complexity and character.

### Tasting Notes:

Our 2014 release has been shining since we bottled it. The defining characteristics are a rich, chocolate blueberry with a touch of bright red fruits that capture your attention right out of the gate. There is enough structure and backbone to allow this wine to hold its own against any number of delightful dishes. At the same time it is incredibly approachable and enjoyable on its own.

### Aging Potential:

Aging is always a moving target but based on the characteristics this merlot exhibits it is very enjoyable now but can easily cellar 10-plus years. If you enjoy your wines with more punch and structure drink sooner. If you prefer more earthiness and smoother wines let it sit.