



## 2015 BEAR FLAT

Merlot, Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley



### VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

This vineyard is located on the west side of the Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley. Well-drained loam soils gently slope toward the east, providing a nice exposure for the vines, while the cooler climate offers ideal ripening conditions.

### HARVEST NOTES

The vines in this gently sloping Oak Knoll District vineyard budded early in 2015. Bloom occurred in early May, and the fruit set was small and concentrated with lovely, loose clusters. We worked to preserve every single berry, maintaining healthy canopies, pulling leaves later in the summer and closely monitoring the fruit. The summer months were moderate, and the smaller crop ripened quickly. We night harvested the vineyard in mid-September to ensure that the fruit came into the winery cold and we were capturing the peak flavor from every berry.

### SENSORY EVALUATION

The 2015 vintage shows the beautiful balance of rich fruit and supple structure that we love to see and taste in our single-vineyard Merlots. Sage, cedar, and plum aromas open onto a palate layered with juicy, berry fruits. Flavors of spice, black olive and forest floor complement the waves of dark, supple fruit, while warm oak and silky tannins provide elegant support. Harmonious and full, this wine is gently polished, allowing the flavors to carry from the entry into a long, lingering finish.

---

### APPELLATION

Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley

### VARIETAL

100% Merlot

### AGING

French oak barrels  
(51% new, 49% once-used)

### RELEASE DATE

March 2018

### HARVEST DATE

September 16, 2015

### SKIN CONTACT

10 days

### TIME

16 months

### FIRST VINTAGE

2014