



CHATEAU MONTELENA  
ESTABLISHED 1882

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## 2016 Montelena Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

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### Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton

#### INTRODUCTION

The premise behind our flagship wine is decidedly simple: it's unapologetically Montelena. With over 40 years of experience in this dynamic and distinctive vineyard, we've recognized the value of blazing our own trail outside of others' conventions and norms. It takes confidence in our land as well our people, farming and winemaking to buck the trends and fads that perpetually morph and meander through the wine world. Most of all, we set the standard for ourselves, not relative to the rest of Napa Valley or the vintage expectations, but based on our own potential and our own drive to make this wine better every year. This is not without risk, and is certainly not the easy path to take, but it's inherently part of who we are, our legacy and our future.

#### VINTAGE WEATHER

Early budbreak and a warm spring hinted at another early harvest, similar to 2015. However, after a turbulent and blustery May, the summer weather settled into a fairly typical and moderate routine with consistently warm days and only few noticeably hot stretches. Mild conditions prevailed during July and August leading to ample hangtime for the fruit as ripening progressed slowly and evenly across the Estate.

#### NOSE

Incredibly floral and opulent, the red berry character of this vintage, mostly Bing cherry and raspberry at this stage, is buttressed by rich notes of cocoa, hazelnut, and Earl Grey. Black pepper and cedar complement this freshness exquisitely.

#### PALATE

Dense but light on its feet, the contrast of velvety tannins and bright acid bookend a youthful and vibrant palate, chock full of blackberry sorbet, plum sauce, and strawberry jam. Fresh fig and marzipan lend richness and texture while stitching these disparate forces into a cohesive yet lively experience.

#### FINISH

Baking spices abound on the finish along with coffee bean, star anise, and an almost caramel-like sweetness that dovetails beautifully with fresh blueberry and cinnamon.

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### Technical Information

#### HARVEST DATES

September 9 – October 2

#### ALCOHOL

14.1%

#### BLEND

99% Cabernet Sauvignon  
1% Cabernet Franc

#### BARREL AGING

22 months, 100% French oak,  
40% new

#### BOTTLING DATE

August 2018

#### WINEMAKER

Matt Crafton