



CHATEAU MONTELENA  
ESTABLISHED 1882

## 2012 Montelena Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

### Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton, February 2016

#### INTRODUCTION

When one considers all of the grape-growing regions of the world and the myriad styles of wines produced therein, one thing should be abundantly clear: the vineyard site is the most important factor in determining the potential of what ends up in the glass. The interaction of soil strata, climate, aspect, and topography intertwined with the seasoned hands of a good farmer is multiplicative in nature. Hitting on all of these, or more succinctly – growing the right grape in the right place – is much more difficult to achieve than it sounds. But when those variables align, the resulting wines embody and are emblematic of the unique nature of the vineyard that can't be found anywhere else in the world.

#### VINTAGE WEATHER

2012 was one of those vintages that allowed us to express what makes the Montelena Estate a rarity, even in the Napa Valley. Our porous alluvial soils and craggy volcanics soaked up the late spring rains, which, coupled with copious sunshine and moderate temperatures, set the stage for an ideal growing season. By August, as most of the Valley dealt with triple digit highs, reliable northerly breezes materialized by mid-afternoon as the substantial heat inland drew in ocean air from the Pacific, which thundered down Mt. St. Helena to cool our Estate. In short, the fruit from this vintage experienced the best of what this vineyard can offer, allowing us to craft a wine of elegance, structure, and finesse.

#### NOSE

Extraordinarily rich notes of dried cherry, cocoa, muddled mint, and blackberry. As the wine continues to breathe, one by one subtle hints of tobacco, cedar, and perfume emerge with patience.

#### PALATE

There is considerable depth on the palate as fresh, tart raspberries contrast rocky, earth undertones, so emblematic of our Estate, leading to a texture that is at once austere, awaiting further time in bottle, and voluptuous.

#### FINISH

After two years in oak, the tannins are wonderfully integrated with just enough toast to seamlessly transition to blueberry, cassis, and mocha on the finish.

### Technical Information

#### HARVEST DATES

September 22 to October 21

#### ALCOHOL

13.8%

#### BLEND

98.5% Cabernet Sauvignon,  
1% Cabernet Franc,  
0.5% Petit Verdot

#### BARREL AGING

24 months, 100% French, 30% new

#### RELEASE DATE

February 2016

#### WINEMAKER

Matt Crafton