



CHATEAU MONTELENA  
ESTABLISHED 1882

## 2017 Montelena Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

### Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton

#### INTRODUCTION

Creative freedom lies at the core of Montelena. It's pervasive, ubiquitous, but at the same time, subtle and ostensibly paradoxical to those who don't know us. At first glance it would seem to conflict with our classic and historic legacy, when in reality, it propels our status year after year and more importantly, inspires us. In no place do we experience that more than in our Estate Cabernet. While certainly *Le Gran Vin* of the property, an extension of decades of heritage, tradition and recognition, it's exceptionally situated as the nexus of the past and future. As much as 40 vintages (1978–2017) of Estate Cabernet can serve as indisputable validation, it's the foundation they've formed that is most impressive, galvanizing the creativity and freedom to explore what's to come.

#### VINTAGE WEATHER

A lush, moderate spring abruptly transitioned to a dynamic summer punctuated by highly variable temperatures during the day and plenty of warm, cloudless nights. The vines responded by producing an incredibly broad palette of flavors in the fruit and textural nuances that embody those of both cool and warm vintages. Vibrant vintages like 2017 are relatively rare but present an exciting challenge to capture those unique elements in the bottle.

#### NOSE

Blueberry, sage and cedar accentuate the opulence of the vintage before yielding to spicy black pepper and dried cherry. It's an incredibly interesting contrast that's easily identifiable now but will mellow in time.

#### PALATE

There's an abundance of purity and freshness as the palate leans toward cool character with layer after layer of raspberry jam, cocoa, strawberry and clove. While not overly coarse, the tannins are persistent and mouthcoating, a perfect balance to the laser-focused seam of acidity that slowly yields to the stony minerality that's typical of wine from the Estate.

#### FINISH

Polished and persistent, the finish transitions from mineral to cassis and then glides through ripe plum adorned with allspice and espresso. Delicate notes of vanilla and mint slowly come into focus leaving an extraordinarily complex and delicious experience to behold.

### Technical Information

#### HARVEST DATES

September 7 – October 8

#### ALCOHOL

13.8%

#### BLEND

97% Cabernet Sauvignon  
2% Petit Verdot  
1% Cabernet Franc

#### BARREL AGING

22 months in 100% French oak,  
40% new

#### BOTTLING DATE

August 2019

#### WINEMAKER

Matt Crafton