

CASTORO CELLARS

ESTATE MERLOT 2018

Merlot is one of the main Bordeaux varietals and grows well in Paso Robles. This is a great alternative to Cabernet Sauvignon when you are looking for something slightly softer with more elegance. The fruit is dark berries, the vanilla oak is moderate, and the tannins are polished.

NIELS AND BIMMER UDSEN, *Owners*

HARVEST NOTES

2018 was an interesting year. A mild spring led to a favorable bloom and set period for the grapes. The summer had a heat spell for an extended period which pushed the ripening into high gear. After that, the temperatures moderated, and the grapes came in over an extended period. Berries sized up, and the yields were just slightly above our estimates. Great color and extraction all around!

WINEMAKER NOTES

The Estate Merlot has beautiful red and black fruits with floral aromas, so the goal of the oak is to frame the fruit, rather than hide the fruit. The French oak adds spice and richness complementing the fruit. There are ample tannins, but extended oak aging softens them creating an elegant, full wine.

TOM MYERS, *Winemaker*

TASTING NOTES

APPEARANCE: Medium dark red

AROMA: Red plum, red cherry and soft vanilla oak

PALATE: Soft roundness through midpalate, red and black fruits with soft tannins

TECHNICAL NOTES

VARIETAL: 100% Merlot **VINEYARD SOURCES:** Jack Knife, Cobble Creek,

Whale Rock **AVA:** Paso Robles **HARVEST DATE:** September 13, 2018

BOTTLING DATE: December 2, 2019 **HARVEST SUGAR:** 25.2° brix

OAK: French **OAK AGE:** 8 months **ALCOHOL:** 14.5%

TA: 0.57 g.100mL **pH:** 3.72

