

# CASTORO CELLARS

## ESTATE MERLOT 2016

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

The harvest of 2016 was nearly ideal. No frost events in spring and generally seasonal weather with some well-timed heat spells to aid in ripening the grapes. In September, the temperatures made big swings from night and day which lengthened the hang time on the vines and resulted in very balanced wines with crisp acidity and mild tannins.

### 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. A combination of French and American oak adds a vanilla and spice 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:** Brick red

**AROMA:** Sweet vanilla, toasted marshmallow, rose petals, strawberry

**PALATE:** Red fruit lited by rose petals, black cherry, light tannins

### TECHNICAL NOTES

**VARIETAL:** 75% Merlot, 14% Petite Sirah, 11% Malbec

**VINEYARD SOURCES:** Double Black, Jack Knife, Hog Canyon, Blind Faith

**AVA:** Paso Robles **HARVEST DATE:** Sept. 2016

**BOTTLING DATE:** July 11, 2018 **HARVEST SUGAR:** 25.5° brix

**OAK:** French and American **OAK AGE:** 9 months

**ALCOHOL:** 14.0% **TA:** 0.58 g.100mL **pH:** 3.66



### ACCOLADES

90 POINTS: Wine Enthusiast *Editor's Choice*

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