

Keenan



Napa Valley  
Spring Mountain District

## 2015 Merlot, Napa Valley

### TASTING NOTES

Keenan Winery is located in Spring Mountain District, high in the Mayacamas mountain range above the town of Saint Helena. Eleven acres of Merlot vines have been planted in the rocky soils surrounding the winery, and it is these vines that produce some of the finest Merlot in Napa. The vineyards are situated above the dense layer of fog that creeps up the Napa Valley most evenings. Consequently the vines warm up earlier in the morning and stay warm through the night. The combination of warm temperatures, steep hillside vine rows and gravelly soils promotes more stress on the vines leading to increased intensity in the finished wine.

The 2015 Keenan Merlot is composed of sixty eight percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Thirty two percent of the wine is Merlot fruit harvested from the Napa Carneros region. After hand harvesting, the grapes were de-stemmed, then inoculated with Montrachet yeast. Fermentation ranged from ten to fourteen days.

The 2015 Merlot has been aged in thirty-three percent new French and American oak barrels for eighteen months. The resulting wine shows intense aromas of black cherry, blackberry, and cassis. Complex nuances of cocoa and coffee bean emerge as the wine opens up. This is a "big" Merlot that will age for many years to come.

Robert M. Parker, Jr.'s, *The Wine Advocate*, Issue #233 October, 2017

**92 Points:** "Medium garnet-purple in color and composed of 100% Merlot, the 2015 Merlot offers a plums, blackberries and dried flowers-scented nose with touches of mossy bark and garrigue. Showing good expression in the medium-bodied mouth with plenty of plummy fruit, it finishes long and spicy."

### WINE DATA

<b>Alcohol:</b>	14.5%
<b>Total Acidity:</b>	0.60 grams/100 ml
<b>pH:</b>	3.60
<b>Residual Sugar:</b>	Dry
<b>Bottling Date:</b>	July 19, 2017
<b>Production:</b>	2,710 cases
<b>Blend:</b>	100% Merlot
<b>Vineyard Source:</b>	68% Estate Merlot 32% Merlot Napa Carneros