

Keenan



Napa Valley
Spring Mountain District

2016 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 2016 Keenan Merlot is composed of seventy-five percent Keenan Estate Merlot. Twenty-five 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 2016 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.

REVIEWS

Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, December 2018

"The 2016 Merlot (Napa Valley) is a very pretty, gracious wine from Keenan. Medium in body and nicely lifted, the 2016 will drink well right out of the gate. Attractive floral and spiced notes add to the wine's gracious, lilting personality."

WINE DATA

Alcohol:	14.5%
Total Acidity:	0.61 grams/100 ml
pH:	3.66
Residual Sugar:	Dry
Bottling Date:	July 12, 2018
Production:	3,402
Blend:	100% Merlot
Vineyard Source:	75% Estate Merlot 25% Merlot Napa Carneros