



A CRAFT WINERY & CELLAR DOOR

## Sourcing

Sonoma Mountain, Sonoma Valley, California  
Murray Ranch Vineyard

## Varietal Composition

100% Malbec

## Technical Data

**pH** 3.69  
**TA** 0.58 g/100mL  
**RS** Dry >0.5g/L  
**Alc.** 14.7%

## Winemaker

Brian Graham



# 2016 Malbec "RESERVE"

SONOMA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

## Background

The Sonoma Valley is known for its unique terroir with high amounts of mineral and nutrients. The complexity of these soils is ideal for cultivating optimal flavors in the grapes, making this a perfect vineyard site for growing Malbec.

The Sonoma Mountain range protects the valley from most of the wet and cool weather and excessive rainfall influence of the nearby Pacific Ocean but retains the air movement that provides cool breezes through the Northwest corridor, drastically cooling the area down during warmer periods helps with natural acid retention, great structure and age-ability in our wines.

Our Malbec is modeled after the famous Malbec wines of Cahors, Spain. Dense, meaty, rich, bold and immensely dark. Created with this in mind but a softer hand and a less tannic approach producing bright, fruit-driven wines against a backbone of oak.

## Winemaking

The grapes were picked at the peak of ripeness during the early morning hours to preserve maximum fruit expression. The fruit was then immediately sorted meticulously crushed and sent to a stainless cooled tank to rest and cold soak prior to yeast inoculation for 3 days. The grapes were fermented slowly over 2 weeks with a average maximum temperature of 88°F to preserve the color and intense fruit aromas. A total of 23 days on the skins. Aged in a blend of new (60%) and seasoned French oak barrels for 19 months. The cooperages selected were: Rousseau, Taransaud, AB and Gamba.

## Tasting Notes

On the nose mulled Christmas spices, rose petals and hints of lavender accent the dense blueberry, black plum, crushed anise and hints of sage.

The entry is elegant and smooth, front to finish. This Malbec drinks more like Cabernet Sauvignon, dense, rich full bodied. Ripe blueberries and plums dominate with hints of bakers chocolate, crushed nutmeg and five spice powder.

Aged in exclusively French oak to create a long-term, age-worthy blend, will cellar very well for well over 10+ years.

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