



# TRUCHARD VINEYARDS

## 2017 MERLOT



**Vintage:** After 4 dry years, the 2017 harvest can be considered almost “normal”. Record winter rains finally provided some real drought relief; but bud-break still came about 1 week earlier than usual. Warm spring weather allowed for good berry set and a slightly below average crop. Hot summer and autumn temperatures quickly brought the fruit to maturity. Severe wild fires near the end of harvest made this a memorable vintage. The wines of 2017 are intense, but elegant with nice acidity and balance.

**Vineyard:** Merlot is harvested from five separate hillside locations on the Truchard Estate Vineyard. The differences in soil, exposure, and temperature at each site combine to produce unique growing conditions for the grapes. As a result, the wines from these hillsides each have their own identity, and each contributes different characteristics to the final blend. The vines range from 21 - 43 years old. Cabernet Franc, grown in adjacent areas of the vineyard is added in to provide additional softness, structure, and complexity.

**Harvest:** September 18 - 26 • 24.5 °Brix • 3.35 pH • 6.8 g/L TA

**Winemaking:** All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed, then inoculated with Pasteur Red yeast. Each fermentation was pumped-over twice daily, with the temperature peaking at 90° F. Maceration time varied from 12 to 28 days depending on wine lot. The wine was aged for 20 months in French oak barrels (35% new). Rackings occurred every 4 months until bottling in August of 2019. The final blend is 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. This wine is drinkable upon release, but will reward careful cellaring for the next 10 - 15 years.

**Wine Analysis:** 14.2% alcohol • 3.42 pH • 6.3 g/l TA

**Tasting Notes:** A concentrated nose of black cherry, berry, and cassis; with a touch of cedar, earth, and subtle mint. The mouth is layered with bright flavors of red currants, ripe plum, and sweet vanilla.

**Release Date:** March 1st, 2020

**Cases Produced:** 618 cases

