

Pellet Estate®



2015 MERLOT

HARVESTED	August 27 th 2015	WINEMAKER	Tom Rinaldi
AGING	21 months, 100% new French Oak	VINEYARD	Pellet Vineyard®
BOTTLED	June 20 th , 2017	APPELLATION	St. Helena
ALCOHOL	14.7%	RELEASE PRICE	\$75
COMPOSITION	100% Merlot	PRODUCTION	27 cases 750 ml

ESTATE NOTES

Pellet Estate produces Chardonnay from the Sunchase Vineyard, and Cabernet Sauvignon from grapes grown exclusively in our historic Pellet Vineyard®, a site that has been producing grapes for over 150 years. The Pellet Vineyard's origin begins in 1859, when pioneer winemaker Henry Alphonse Pellet was hired by John Patchett to make wine from his grapes near the city of Napa. Charles Krug had also begun to make wine in 1858, and Henry Pellet became the second commercial wine maker in Napa County. Formally established in 1863, the Pellet Vineyard was among the first vineyards in Napa Valley intended for producing grapes for wine for consumers at large, rather than family & friends. In 1863, Pellet purchased 45 acres of land south of the town of St. Helena next to his neighbor, Dr. G.B. Crane, and planted 38 acres in vineyards. Our label depicts the dawn of the age of electrification, the era when Pellet illuminated the path towards modern viticultural and winemaking methodology, and with it, the high quality and age-worthy wines that define Napa Valley.

VINTAGE NOTES

2015 was another near-perfect vintage, perhaps surpassing 2014, yielding a crop of concentrated fruit that produced a intense wine, and should stand out for decades to come. Compared to last year, 2015 produced smaller than average berries, which means a higher ratio of skins to juice, leading to higher levels of color and tannin. We had a few heat spikes in late July, and the weather was generally dry, warm even and consistent throughout the season. We picked the Merlot the earliest ever, yet still under the most ideal conditions in late August, and expect 2014 will turn out to be yet another new pinnacle for our Estate following the triple back to back stellar vintages for 2012, 2013 and 2014 in our opinion, with 2015 having a bit of an edge at the moment.

WINEMAKING NOTES

We hand sorted our grapes both prior to and after de-stemming, and following a four day whole berry maceration and cold soak, we began primary fermentation. After nearly three weeks, the wine was gently pressed-off and racked to 100% new Darnajou and Ermitage 36 month-aged tight grain French Oak barrels to complete a slow secondary fermentation for another few months. This year's second vintage of Merlot is fantastic, and yielded just over one barrel.

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