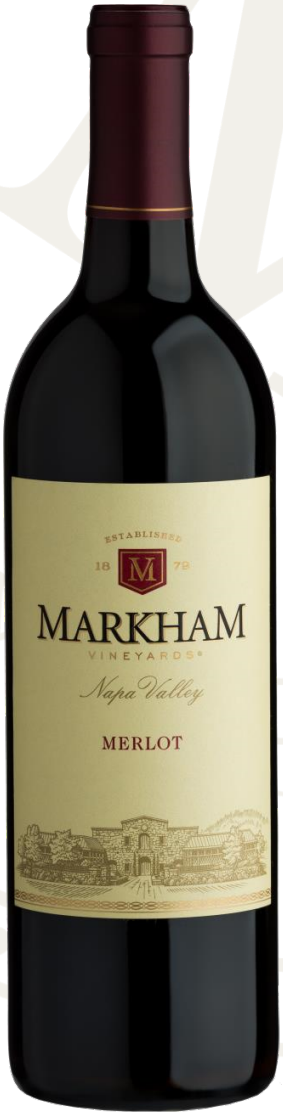
ESTABLISHED 18 M 79

MARKHAM
VINEYARDS®

Napa Valley

MERLOT

2017



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

This showstopper has a lovely balance of candied cherry laced with dark chocolate aromas. Floral fruit runs from strawberry preserves to boysenberry and is accented with an assortment of backing spices. The velvety entry melts like chocolate on your palate providing a silky but dense mouthfeel with a long, intense finish. Hard to imagine there isn't anything with which this wine wouldn't pair, but slow-braised short ribs on a bed of buttery mash must be top of the most decadent list.

VINEYARD NOTES

A true Napa Valley blend of vineyards! Our Estate vineyards provide the backbone for the blend, totaling almost 65% of this bottling. Merlot from the Oak Knoll District gives sour cherry character, while the Yountville components provide the classic Bing cherry aromas and flavors for which our Merlot is known. The jammy notes come from blending in warmer up-valley fruit. Much care is taken to maximize the filtered light and allow the Merlot to hang freely within the canopy during harvest. This allows the fruit to mature and color evenly, leaving any vegetal hints behind. The wines are sent to barrels as individual lots to mature, allowing for greater understanding of the direct impact of our viticultural and fermentation practices each vintage. We continue to work towards total sustainability in our wines, this vintage finds 90% of the fruit in this bottle to be NAPA GREEN® certified.

HARVEST NOTES

2017 was one for the record books! The New Year found our back-parking lot flooded, not once but twice. Late January chill set the vines to a normal schedule in regard to budbreak, bloom & veraison. The HOT summer dried the soil moisture quickly. We hoped the solar eclipse on 8/21 might make a fortuitous start to the harvest, but the grapes weren't quite ready. We began our 40th vintage celebrating our history of winemaking here at Markham Vineyards. The perfect fall weather and amazing fruit quality made for deliciously powerful wines. When all but just a few tons were left to pick, a cataclysmic October wildfire brought the entire Napa Valley to a standstill. We watched & waited with heavy hearts, fingers-crossed for our family and friends in harm's way. Thankfully our family and winery was spared and we bonded together as a community to finish stronger than ever.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

87% Merlot
9% Cabernet Sauvignon
3% Petite Sirah
1% Malbec

TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol: 14.6%
Acid: 0.60 g/100 mls
pH: 3.59

FERMENTATION & AGING

100% Stainless Steel Fermented
13 Days Skin Contact

15½ Mo. in French & American Oak Barrels
32% New Oak

Bottled: May 2019
Released: Spring 2020

NAPA GREEN CERTIFIED WINERY