



FLANAGAN

2018 MERLOT

Bennett Valley - Sonoma County



HARVEST DATE October 5, 2018

pH 3.73

TA 5.38

ABV 14.2%

CASES PRODUCED 42

RELEASE DATE July 1, 2021

PRODUCTION NOTES

The 2018 vintage was a typical Sonoma County growing season...except for the unusually large crop. The 2018 harvest was about 30% larger than 2017. The most important things are always: 1) The site; and 2) the farming. Our Merlot is sourced from a top Sonoma County site that year after year produces top quality Merlot. In 2017 the keys were managing the heat spike in late August and picking before the fires. In 2018 the higher crop yields meant that farmers needed to manage fruit loads by eliminating short shoots in the spring, dropping crop at veraison, and pushing the vines to ripen the fruit later in the season.

Farming at the highest level, picking for balance, and making the wine with minimal intervention all contribute to what we believe is one of the top Merlots made in California.

TASTING NOTES

The 2018 Flanagan Merlot Bennett Valley has compelling aromatic notes of Bay Leaf, Pepper, Cedar, and Saffron. The palate has Red Currant, Black Cherry, Bergomot, and Black Tea with a very elegant tannin structure. The acidity provides great balance. The small berries produced from the steep, volcanic hillside site give the wine great color and concentration.

This is an elegant, age worthy, world class Merlot.