



# MERITAGE

2017

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

### HARVEST DATES

Cabernet Sauvignon- October 11th

Malbec - October 23rd

Petit Verdot- September 30th

### AVERAGE BRIX

24.6

### ALCOHOL

14.4%

### FINAL PH / TA

3.45 / 7.1 g/L

### VARIETAL BLEND

37% Cabernet Sauvignon

36% Malbec

27% Petit Verdot

### CASES PRODUCED

226

### AGING

Aged for 18 months in 25% new French oak, 15% new American oak and 5% Hungarian oak. 55% neutral barrels

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

### TASTING NOTES

Complex aromas, mainly strawberries, black currant, French oak, and vanilla. Full bodied, silky texture with a hint of spice. Finish is lengthy.

### ABOUT THE VINEYARD

The Meritage blend consists of grape varieties grown at two separate vineyards; the Petit Verdot and Malbec from Margarita Vineyard in Santa Margarita and the Cabernet Sauvignon from Dos Robles Vineyard in the El Pomar region of Paso Robles.

### GROWING SEASON

Spring was mild and wet followed by a period of unusually warm and humid weather that resulted in sporadic downy mildew on Central Coast vineyards. Warm weather during most of the growing season, coupled with drought busting rains, created vigorous growth and more clusters per vine. A nine day heat spike in late August pushed picking decisions ahead of schedule. The fruit showed great intensity, with lower brix levels and higher acids than normal.

### WINEMAKING

The Meritage blend was created in spring of 2018 following multiple bench trials. Additional racking during aging introduced a small amount of oxygen, further softening tannins and adding more of a brick red hue to the color.