



# Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

## Napa Valley, California

### ESTATE

Chateau Montelena's history is one of the deepest and most storied in the Napa Valley and California. Founded just north of Calistoga in 1882, it was one of the largest wineries in the state. Prohibition put an end to Montelena's winemaking, and the next major era began in 1968, when Jim Barrett purchased the estate. Jim fell in love with this exceptional property, blessed with a complex mix of soils, slopes and biodiversity of wildlife and fauna. He had a dream of creating wine at the level of the great First Growths of Bordeaux, and set about replanting the vineyard, outfitting the winery with modern equipment, and studying the processes necessary for farming and winemaking at the highest quality level.

### WINE

The wines at Chateau Montelena are often described as having classic "old-world" structure with ripe California fruit, and the Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is emblematic of this style. These wines tend to have more acid and more moderate alcohol levels as compared to some of the "cult" Cabs. This combination of classic chemistry and California sunshine allows them to offer immediate pleasure and complexity on release, and the ability to develop beautifully.

### VINEYARD

**Soils:** All of the prime vineyard sites have been selected for their alluvium soil profile. These soils provide an earthy, complex and concentrated Cabernet Sauvignon softened by the judicious addition of Merlot. The cobbly, gravelly subsoil makes for deep root penetration and good drainage.

**Farming:** Chateau Montelena is committed to sustainable farming and produces wine in their solar powered winery.

**Grape Varieties:** 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc

### WINEMAKING

**Fermentation:** Temperature-controlled stainless steel allows the wines to ferment slowly and evenly.

**Aging:** 16 months in French and Eastern European oak barrels (35% new).

**Alcohol:** 14.2% ABV

### VINTAGE

**Climate:** 2016 will be remembered as a classic vintage with consistent temperatures and few extremes. Despite low yields, a mild August and September moderated ripening, allowing for uniform maturity and very selective, targeted picks.

### JEB DUNNUCK

"The largest production cuvée is the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley, which comes mostly from Calistoga (there's a small amount of Merlot and Cabernet Franc from Oak Knoll) and spends 16 months in roughly 20% new French oak. Its ruby/purple color is followed by a vibrant, juicy wine that has plenty of black cherry, blackberry, spring flowers, and graphite. It's medium-bodied, elegant and seamless, with terrific purity and a balanced, juicy style. It's beautiful, classic Napa Valley Cabernet to drink over the coming 10-15 years."

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