



OBERON

Napa Valley

2016 OBERON MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

40 Years of Napa Valley Roots

Napa Valley native and winemaker, Tony Coltrin, brings more than 40 years of winemaking experience to Oberon, with expertise in sourcing quality fruit from the best vineyards in the valley and understanding the region's uniqueness for growing classic Bordeaux varieties. His long-standing relationships with local growers ensure a consistency in the quality of the grapes grown in premier Napa Valley sub-appellations for Oberon.

Vintage 2016

Another year of drought conditions and a continued warm, dry winter season, resulted in an early bud break. Drought coupled with a cool Spring and long flowering period lead to uneven fruit set, smaller grape clusters and another year of lighter than usual crop. Temperatures throughout the growing season were a bit of a rollercoaster of hot and cold, forcing the fruit to ripen in waves. Despite the weather and light crop, we were able to harvest a crop offering beautiful rich character. We completed harvest before the October rains, which made the Napa Valley wetter than we've seen in a decade.

Napa Valley Vineyards

To create Oberon Merlot, Tony sourced grapes from Napa Valley's renowned Oakville district. The deeper alluvial soils along with the perfect balance of cool mornings and warm afternoons make this are the perfect location for growing Bordeaux varietals. Tony sources Syrah from Dry Creek Valley and Zinfandel from Middletown specifically for this blend as they marry beautifully with this Merlot and bring out the rich character of this delicious expressive Oakville fruit.

Winemaking

To naturally soften tannins and enhance varietal complexity, Tony allowed the grapes to undergo extended maceration. He then pressed the wine and transferred it to French oak barrels (45% new oak) to undergo a long malolactic fermentation for roundness and depth. Using Syrah and Zinfandel as blenders, adds a dark velvety feel to the lush berry flavor profile of the Merlot. Dense black fruit aromas are followed by blueberry and chocolate flavors, and supple tannins on the palate.

Blend: 87.3% Merlot, 9.7% Syrah, 3.0% Zinfandel

Alcohol 13.9%

TA 6.3 g/L

pH 3.82

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