

CHATEAU MONTELENA

Chateau Montelena's 19th century stone structure stands as a quality icon in Napa Valley, consistently producing some of the finest wines in California.



Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

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.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot

Fermentation: Temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks to allow the wines to ferment slowly and evenly.

Aging: 16 months in French and Eastern European oak barrels (30% new). Bottled April 2019.

Alcohol: 13.6% ABV

VINTAGE

Plentiful winter rains saturated the soil ahead of a pleasant, moderate spring. Vines responded fittingly with abundant green growth heading into summer. June arrived with periods of warmth punctuated by short bursts of intense heat, which continued through the remainder of the growing season. These vintage characteristics provided ample opportunity—for those watching carefully—to harvest fruit with a dizzying diversity of flavors and textures.

"On the nose, cocoa raspberry jam and dried fig highlight a bright, fresh nose that quickly settles into a steady parade of baking spices, black pepper and earth. The palate is deceptively soft initially, the wine continues to build with its viscosity and concentration amidst layers of ripe plum, very fine tannins and espresso bean. A lively ginger note adds a touch of spice, bolstered by dried cherry, tobacco and fresh bright cranberries. The finish is laser-focused, mineral-driven and persistent, not unexpected in a young Cabernet. Delicious now, it will add breadth and polish with time in glass." -Winemaker, Matt Crafton