



OBERON

Napa Valley

2017 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 2017

From record-breaking heat to drizzly summer days, the 2017 growing season was challenging for winemakers. Throughout the valley, temperatures soared well over 100 degrees for multiple days in late August and early September. This, coupled with temperatures in the 90's and hot winds in early October caused a flurry of activity in the vineyards and wineries. The 2017 Vintage saw us harvest our Merlot vineyard in early October, and our Syrah and Zinfandel blenders mid to late September. We count ourselves very lucky to have safely harvested our fruit well beyond affected fire areas.

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: 87.7% Merlot, 10.9% Syrah, 1.4% Zinfandel

Alcohol 13.9%

TA 6.2 g/L

pH 3.76

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