

2018 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY

TITUS



50 YEARS IN NAPA VALLEY

- ESTABLISHED 1969 -

Titus Vineyards is a family owned 50-acre vineyard and winery located at the base of Howell Mountain along the Silverado Trail in the heart of the St. Helena AVA, Napa Valley. In the past 50 years, some of the valleys finest wines including Charles Krug, Beaulieu Vineyards and Cuvaison have originated from our historic vineyards. The modern-day legacy of winemaking and land stewardship is reflected in the distinctive character, well balanced wines made here.

VINEYARDS

- Our home vineyard is located on 40 acres of Napa Valley floor just north of St. Helena on the Silverado Trail. It has well-drained, sandy, alluvial soils and is characterized by its ability to produce complex wines with well-defined fruit flavors, gentle acids, and naturally balanced tannins.
- Our Ehlers Lane vineyard lies to the north of the winery estate, on the northern boundary of the St. Helena AVA. The volcanic slope and rocky stream bed soils yields small Cabernet Sauvignon berries and concentrated fruit.
- Multiple vineyard passes resulted in small lot harvesting that optimizes the timing and selection for ideal fruit maturity.

VINTAGE

- Late season rains and cool temperatures resulted in a slightly later Spring with bud break occurring in the third week of March. Even weather throughout Ample January the Spring allowed the soils to dry out and flowering to occur unabated with balanced berry set happening across all varieties.
- June and July provided ideal weather to help the vines catch up a bit and proceed into veraison in early August. The heat of late Summer and ample crop resulted in a prolonged ripening period; the extended hang time through October allowed the vineyards to develop deep flavors with rich color in the red varieties.
- Harvest for the Merlot occurred in mid-October. The later harvest dates allowed the fruit to be expressive, concentrated and retain its natural acidity, yet softened tannins ideally for building a bold yet integrated wine.

WINEMAKING

Vineyard Manager: Eric Titus
Winemaker: Stephen Cruzan
Appellation: Napa Valley
Harvest Date: Oct. 2018
Bottled: May 2020

Release: February 2021
Blend: 87% Merlot
6.5% Malbec
6.5% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases Produced: 350

Barrel Aging: 20 months in 55% New
Hungarian Oak
Alcohol: 14.5%
Acidity: 6.2 g/L
pH: 3.74

TASTING NOTES

2018 was a fantastic vintage in the cooler regions of Napa, where the Merlot for the Titus wine is grown at Sugarloaf Vineyard. The wine is popping with red berry notes of pomegranate, raspberry, cranberry and filled out by hints of rum raisin, perfume, and white pepper. The palate opens with more red fruits and candied cherries while the wine fills the mid palate with creamy richness. The tannins are silky giving the wine a fine-grained texture throughout and leading to a finish redolent of red plums, graphite, and spices. Enjoy through 2032.