

APPELLATION: Napa Valley
COMPOSITION: 100% Merlot
AGING: 19 months, 30% new oak
(100% French)
ALCOHOL: 14.2%
T.A.: 0.53 g / 100ml
PH: 3.69
HARVEST DATE:
September 15–October 21, 2016
RELEASE DATE: June 2018
CASES: 8,500 (12-pack cases)

With more than 40 years of winemaking heritage in California's most fabled wine region, Napa Cellars embodies the classic, unmistakable style of Napa Valley. Veteran winemaker Joe Shirley crafts our wines from estate vineyards and coveted partner sites throughout Napa's most revered sub-appellations. Meticulous care in the vineyard, coupled with gentle winemaking techniques, ensures our wines reflect the quality and richness of Napa Valley's terroir.

VINEYARD

Grapes for the 2016 Napa Cellars Merlot are sourced from vineyards mainly from the Oak Knoll region, along with a small portion from Atlas Peak, Carneros and Rutherford—regions ideal for cultivating Merlot grapes. The moderate to cool climate in Napa Valley supports an extended growing season, resulting in elegant, intricate, complex and balanced wine.

CLONAL SELECTION

New clones (347)
Classic clones (6 and 3)

HARVEST

The 2016 growing season in Napa Valley started out with unseasonably warm temperatures, though welcomed rains occurred in the late winter and early spring after years of drought. Bud break was early though slowed with April showers leading to a harvest that was still early, though with a heavier crop than the 2015 vintage.

WINEMAKING

Once harvested, the grapes underwent a 10 to 16 day maceration period and were fermented using the délestage method. This process allows the winemaker to extract copious amounts of color and flavor from the skins, while avoiding excessive extraction of bitter and astringent flavors. After the fermentation process completed, the wine was aged for 19 months in 100% French oak barrels.

WINEMAKER NOTES

The 2016 Napa Cellars Merlot boasts aromas of blackberry, black cherry, ripe plum and hints of rose petal, spice and cedar. Flavors of ripe blackberry and cherries, with nutty vanilla, spice and cedar notes on the finish that coat the palate and are complemented by smoky-oak and tobacco. The wine finishes with a cedar character and showcases medium body, soft structure, good length and bright fruit that pairs well with a wide range of food.

A TRUE NAPA VALLEY CLASSIC SINCE 1976

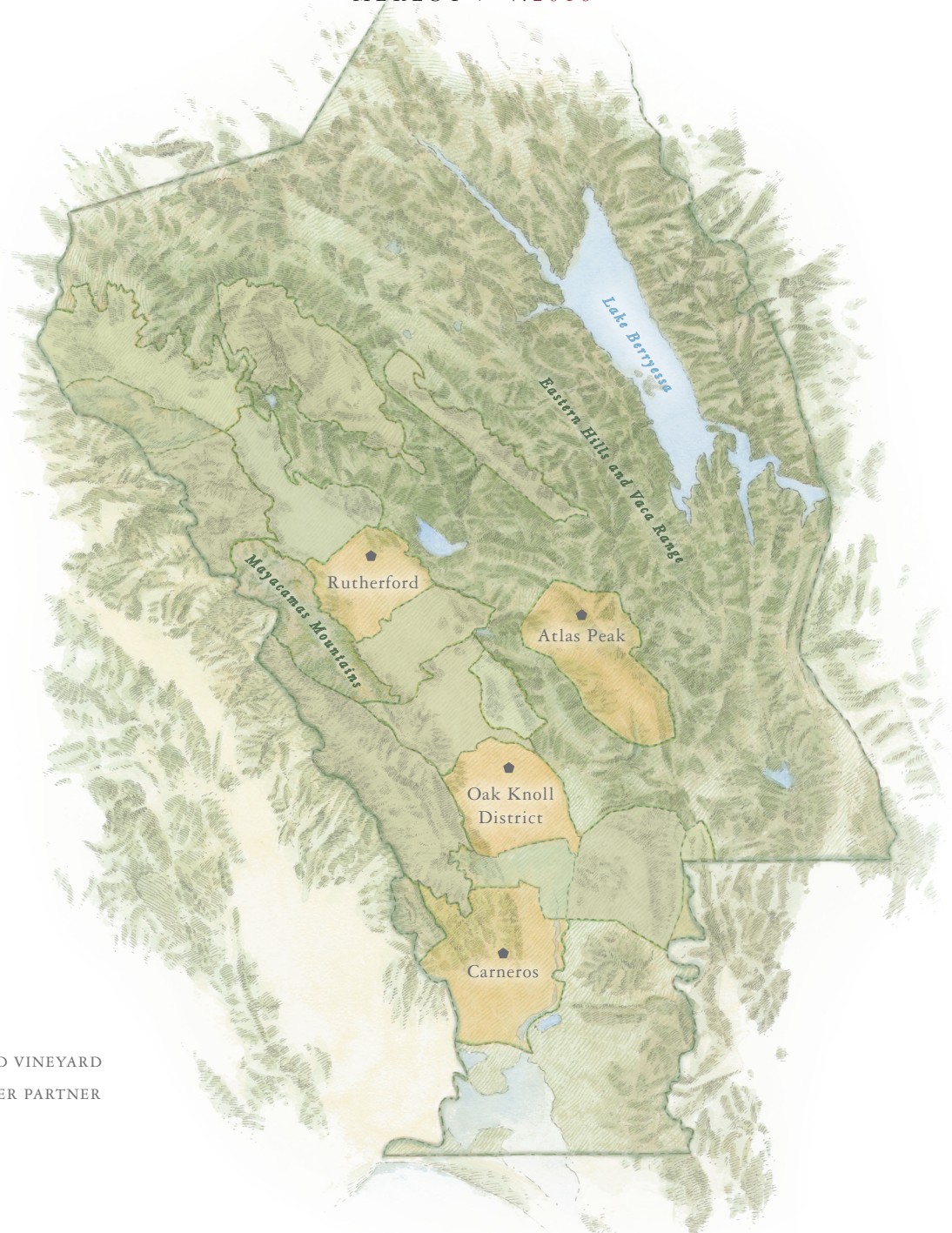
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CELLARS

VINEYARD SOURCING
MERLOT | v. 2016



○ OWNED VINEYARD
◆ GROWER PARTNER

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