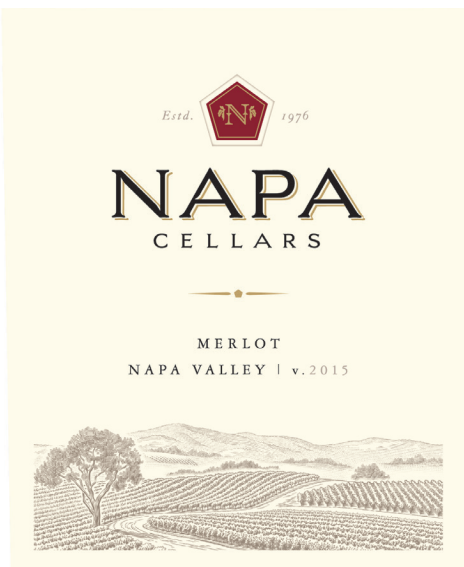


Estd.  1976

# NAPA CELLARS

MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY | v. 2015



Estd.  1976

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MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY | v. 2015

*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 2015 Napa Cellars Merlot are sourced from vineyards mainly from the Oak Knoll region, along with a small portion from 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 (181 and 347)

Classic clones (6, 3 and 8)

## HARVEST

The 2015 growing season in Napa Valley started out with unseasonably warm temperatures in the late winter and early spring, which resulted in an early bud break and bloom. Overall, the vintage was defined by lower yields and high quality fruit.

## WINEMAKING

Once harvested, the grapes undergo a 10 to 11 day maceration period and are 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 is complete, the wine is aged for 21 months in 100% French oak barrels.

## WINEMAKER NOTES

The 2015 Napa Cellars Merlot boasts aromas of dark cherry and concentrated dark fruit notes with hints of strawberry jam and vanilla. Flavors of plum, blackberry, caramel, and cocoa coat the palate and are complemented by smoky-oak, tobacco and cedar notes. The wine finishes with a toasted, sweeter caramel and soy-like character. This wine showcases medium bodied, concentrated tannin in the mid-palate and part acidity that pairs well with a wide range of food.

**APPELLATION:** Napa Valley

**COMPOSITION:** 100% Merlot

**AGING:** 21 months, 31% new oak  
(100% French)

**ALCOHOL:** 14.5%

**T.A.:** 0.58 g / 100ml

**PH:** 3.57

**HARVEST DATE:**  
September 21–October 7, 2015

**RELEASE DATE:** May 2018

**CASES:** 1,946 (12-pack cases)

A TRUE NAPA VALLEY CLASSIC SINCE 1976

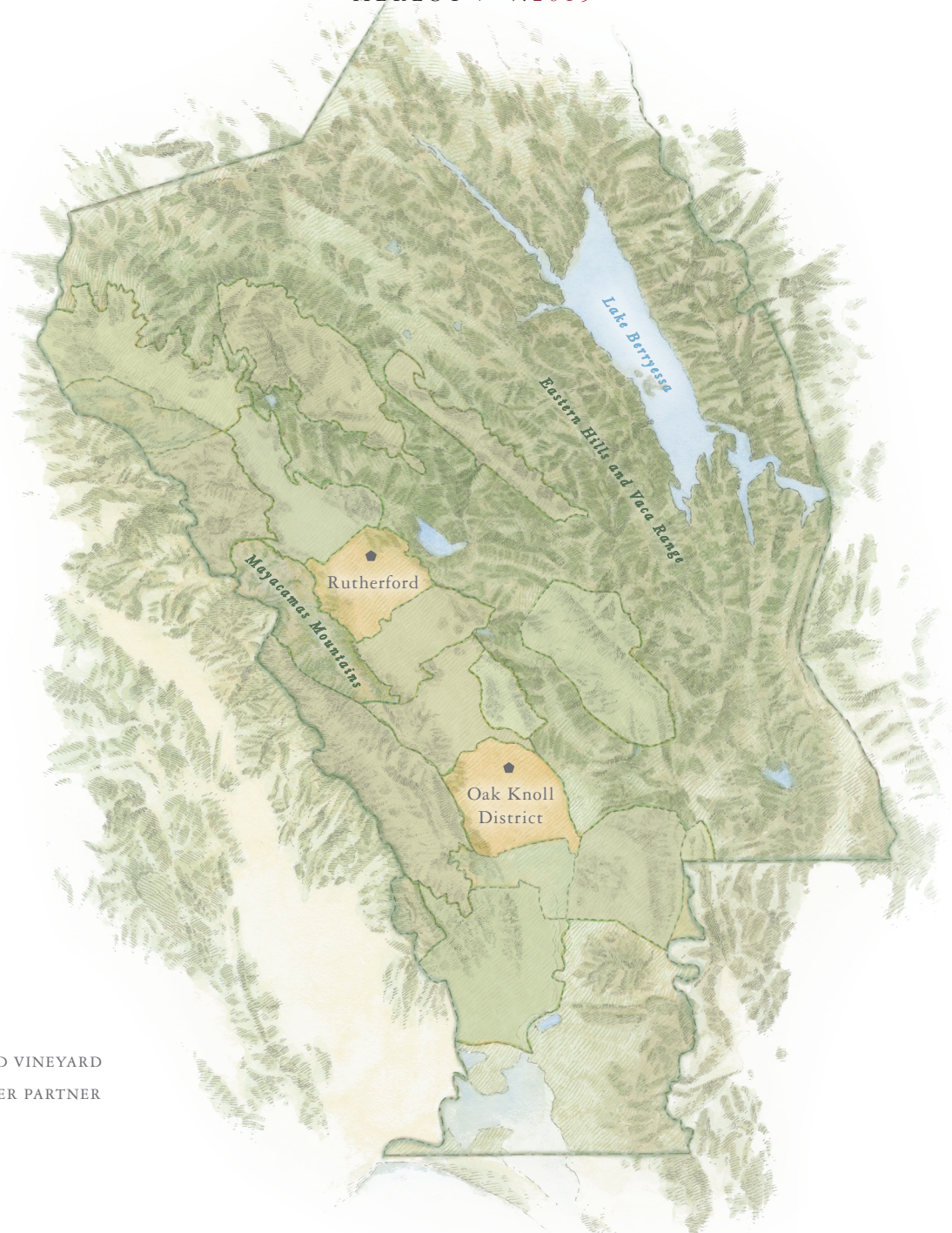
  
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# NAPA

CELLARS

VINEYARD SOURCING  
MERLOT | v. 2015



○ OWNED VINEYARD  
◆ GROWER PARTNER

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