



THE HESS COLLECTION

SMALL BLOCK SERIES

MERLOT

2017



BLEND: 100% Merlot

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

HARVEST DATE: September 20 - October 5, 2017

ALCOHOL: 14.8%

pH: 3.48

TA: 0.57 gms/100ml

AGING: 22 months in 20% New French Oak

700 cases produced

HESS SMALL BLOCK SERIES WINES

Small Block Series wines were born from the Hess family's creative passions—wine and art—and thrive under the leadership of the fifth generation Hess family, Tim and Sabrina Persson. These wines honor winemaking practices that explore distinctive vineyards and artisan techniques. The Small Block Series reflects the next generation's pursuit of state-of-the-art innovations in the winery, and their desire to express the distinct personalities of Napa Valley grapes in the bottle.

2017 VINTAGE

Vintage 2017 began with restorative rains that replenished soils, helped support vine growth and fortified our vineyards through the Spring. The late-August heat wave that continued into September led us to begin harvest on Mount Veeder just after Labor Day. From the start, yields looked promising, as the sugars and acids in the grapes showed incredible balance. The rest of the mountain fruit came off the vine quickly with the consistently warm weather. October was marked by wildfires in the North Coast, and while the fires devastated many homes and properties, our fruit was already picked and safely in the winery, with the majority of the area's vineyards not significantly affected. Despite it being a tumultuous year, overall, we saw an abundant harvest that gave our winemakers quality fruit and the opportunity to develop wines with depth and character.

TASTE WITH THE WINEMAKER

"Our Small Block Series Merlot is a beautiful expression of what this varietal has to offer. Inviting aromas of red currant, black cherry and cocoa lead to a supple wine on the palate. This Merlot is driven by black plum and cassis, which marry with touches of cinnamon spice and toasted oak. Well-managed, mouth-filling tannins appear in such a way that does not overpower the wine as it lingers on a long, pleasant finish."

- Dave Guffy, Director of Winemaking

FOOD PAIRING

Roasted duck, quail or pork loin alongside a dark berry compote complement the earthy notes in the wine perfectly. Creamy au gratin potatoes or roasted leeks with spring onion and green garlic make delicious additions to complete the meal.

- Chad Hendrickson, Executive Chef

LAND TRUST OF NAPA COUNTY

The Hess Collection is proud to support the Land Trust of Napa County, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to preserving the character of Napa by permanently protecting land.



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