



# Merlot

## PASO ROBLES 2017

One of the world's most exciting wine regions, Paso Robles is the pinnacle of Central California's winegrowing region with 11 distinct sub-AVAs. Rolling terrain, varied soils and warm days and cool nights provide exquisite growing conditions to craft award-winning wines. Founded on hard work and self-made prosperity, Robert Hall is a pillar of the vibrant and premier Paso Robles wine region. Our acclaimed winemaker, Don Brady, is the creative force behind our premium wines, cultivating the best vineyards to express the spirit of the valley.

## VINTAGE NOTES

2017 began with above average rainfall as Paso Robles began to rebound from drought. The wet start was followed by average temperatures through June. Higher than average winds during bloom affected fruit set in some areas.

Harvest was a few days later than average, compressing our growing season. A severe heat spike in September with highs of 115 degrees halted maturation, delaying harvest for approximately two weeks. Temperatures became more seasonal throughout October until a frost in some areas created more challenges for our harvest. Overall, 2017 was an oddly paced, challenging harvest. Despite difficult conditions, the vintage shows excellent maturity and depth of flavor.

#### WINEMAKING

Many vineyard sites in Paso Robles are well suited for Merlot. Moderate temperatures, maritime influence and clay soils contribute to this robust wine. Aged in French and Eastern European Oak for 18 months.

#### TASTING NOTES

Rich aromas of ripe black cherry accentuated by hints of cedar emanate from this Merlot. Lush, ruby-red color indicates the level of concentration yielded by the vintage and the vineyards. On the palate, rich flavors mirror the aromas and are complemented by soft, silky tannins on the finish.

#### FOOD PAIRING

Pair with burgers, steak, wild game and kabobs.

### WINE FACTS

Vintage: 2017

Appellation: Paso Robles

Blend: 78% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 9% Petite Sirah

Alcohol: 15.0%

TA: 6.3 g/100ml

*pH*: 3.65

