

# CHATEAU MONTELENA

Chateau Montelena's 19th century stone structure stands as a quality icon in Napa Valley, consistently producing some of the finest wines in California.



## Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

Napa Valley, California

### ESTATE

Chateau Montelena's history is one of the deepest and most storied in the Napa Valley and California. Founded just north of Calistoga in 1882, it was one of the largest wineries in the state. Prohibition put an end to Montelena's winemaking, and the next major era began in 1968, when Jim Barrett purchased the estate. Jim fell in love with this exceptional property, blessed with a complex mix of soils, slopes and biodiversity of wildlife and fauna. He had a dream of creating wine at the level of the great First Growths of Bordeaux, and set about replanting the vineyard, outfitting the winery with modern equipment, and studying the processes necessary for farming and winemaking at the highest quality level.

### WINE

Jim Barrett's dream of Chateau Montelena was that this wine, their flagship Cabernet Sauvignon, achieve the balance and complexity of flavors, aromas and textures to be considered among the great examples of Cabernet in the world. Almost since his first vintages in the 1970s, this wine has been a show-stopper that has everything in place, while revealing the majesty and distinctive character of the estate vineyard site that the Barretts led to recognition as its own appellation, Calistoga. Today, the 50-year legacy of excellence in farming, crafting and blending compelling wines and continued innovation is what sets Chateau Montelena Winery apart.

### VINEYARD

*Soils:* The diversity of soils and slopes in the Estate Vineyard directly translates to layers of complexity and depth in the glass. It is comprised of varied terrain, from flat to steep hillsides with sedimentary, alluvial and volcanic soils  
*Farming:* This wine is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is sustainably farmed and produced in their solar powered winery.

### WINEMAKING

*Grape Varieties:* 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc

*Fermentation:* Temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks to allow the wines to ferment slowly and evenly.

*Aging:* 22 months in French oak barrels (40% new)

*Alcohol:* 13.8% ABV

### VINTAGE

A lush, moderate spring abruptly transitioned to a dynamic summer punctuated by highly variable temperatures during the day and plenty of warm, cloudless nights. The vines responded by producing an incredibly broad palette of flavors in the fruit and textural nuances that embody those of both cool and warm vintages. Vibrant vintages like 2017 are relatively rare but present an exciting challenge to capture those unique elements in the bottle.

vinous

93+

*"The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate shows the racier, more voluptuous side of the vintage. A burst of super-ripe red cherry fruit, spice, mint, tobacco and cedar gives the wine an extra kick of exoticism that is a signature of the year, and a bit out of character for Montelena. Even so, the wine retains its super-classic sense of structure. Today, the 2017 is clearly still recovering from its recent bottling a few months ago, but it has so much to offer." - A.G., 1/2020*