

# 2015

## MALBEC

### BECKSTOFFER VINEYARDS

  
ADOBE ROAD  
WINERY  
SMALL LOT *Handcrafted* WINES

#### TASTING NOTES

Vanilla, violets, and ripe blueberries fill out the aromatics. Dark fruit flavors persist into the palate; the rich mouthfeel is framed by dusty tannins, cocoa, and juicy acidity. Richly colored and textured, this Malbec shows off the warm Rutherford soils. Intense violet and blackberry aromas leap out of the glass along with details of pencil lead and caramel. On the palate this wine shows loads of dark fruit, cinnamon, vanilla, and a savory edge of grilled meat and crushed stones.

#### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

There's not much malbec planted in Rutherford, these days. Almost everyone there has succumbed to the popular (and profitable) trend of growing cabernet sauvignon -- everyone except for Andy Beckstoffer, that is. Andy lives on the Melrose Ranch and has a fierce devotion to farming small amounts of this unique variety. Luckily enough, we were able to secure some of this fantastic fruit. We are the first winery to release a 100% pure malbec from this vineyard.

Malbec is famous for poor fruit set, leaving clusters scattered with some full berries and some berries that never matured. Add that to the variable conditions in 2015 and it underlines how careful selection and processing was paramount to the success of this wine. Malbec is thick skinned, darkly pigmented, and has a distinctive floral aromatic profile from this site in Napa. Wanting to showcase its natural beauty, we sorted the fruit vigorously to remove any defective clusters, green "shot berries" and stems, leaving beautifully whole, fully ripe berries to transform into wine. The fermentation was punched down by hand and peak temperatures were kept in the mid 80's to retain fresh fruit and floral aromas while optimizing the color and tannin extraction.

#### THE VINTAGE

2015 was a bit of a departure from the previous three years. California was in its fourth consecutive year of drought and the vineyards reflected those conditions. The vines woke up early and struggled to produce a smaller crop. Cold weather during flowering caused an uneven fruit set in Napa made matters more challenging. All of this was followed by a few early heat spikes, adding further complications. However, the vintage rewarded those who rolled with mother nature and used a combination of common sense and the best technology available to produce superior wines.

#### INFO

##### VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Malbec

##### APPELLATION

Napa Valley, Rutherford

##### VINEYARD(S)

Beckstoffer Melrose Vineyard

##### BARREL COMPOSITION

40% new French oak barrels

##### BARREL AGING

24 months

##### ALCOHOL

14.5%

##### WINEMAKER

##### CASES

130

