

# BLUE ROCK

## 2018 Best Barrels Merlot Blue Rock Vineyard, Alexander Valley



### Vineyard

Our 2018 Best Barrels Merlot is comprised of 94% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Malbec from the best blocks at our Blue Rock Estate Vineyard in Alexander Valley.

### Winemaker's Tasting Notes

A pristine and deep ruby color, this Merlot is serious and noble, demanding a seat at the table alongside its more famous Cabernet brethren. 2018 produced wines of wonderful complexity and charm and this Merlot is no exception.

Brooding aromas of graphite, cassis, boysenberry and plum, fennel, cocoa, vanilla, cedar and tobacco leaf all work together to grab your attention. One sip and you instantly realize this is one to watch for years as it reveals all its layers. Loaded with ripe, structured bright berry and cherry flavors, the impressive fruit is enhanced by suggestions of black licorice, coffee bean, mocha and black tea, leading to firm yet rounded tannins that will support a long and glorious evolution in the cellar for years to come. While delicious and enjoyable now if decanted for a few hours, we suggest giving this full-bodied Merlot until Thanksgiving of 2023 to begin working through your prized stash.

### Food Affinities

A wine of depth and structure, this Merlot is best paired with beef or rack of lamb, cassoulet, and game meats like venison and bison. Duck and wild mushrooms, short ribs with chimichurri sauce, roast veal, or filet mignon with peppercorn and red wine sauce would all be ideal companions as well.

### Ageability

All the 2018 wines will age wonderfully for years to come. Unlike many earlier drinking Merlot, this beauty begs for another 2 years in your cellar before its official debut at the holiday table. Prime drinking from late 2023 through 2030. Graceful evolution through 2038 or longer.

### Technical Data

94% Merlot  
- 05% Cabernet Sauvignon, 01% Malbec  
25% new French oak, 22 months in oak  
14.4% Alc.  
Cases Produced: 429  
Bottled: July 2020  
Released: June 2021



\*2018 vintage



90 pts

\*2018 vintage

