



TOAD HOLLOW®

V I N E Y A R D S

2019 MERLOT

SONOMA COUNTY
RICHARD MCDOWELL'S SELECTION

THE FINE ART OF FUN!

FRANKIE'S NOTES

“Our co-founder, Rodney Strong was a lover of Bordeaux’s Petrus. Petrus has always been predominately Merlot and since 2010, 100% Merlot. In 1995, Rod tore out an apple orchard at our Russian River Valley ranch and planted Merlot. Those grapes are a center-piece of our Merlot which in recent vintages also includes fruit from other superb Sonoma County AVA’s. I think of Rod when I savor our charming Merlot with a beef bourguignon or short ribs with a berry reduction. Enjoy!”

AROMATICS & FLAVORS

Our Merlot is the color of a rich red Freedom rose – seductive and garnet red. It has an extremely appealing nose that promises everything a Merlot is supposed to be. Very cherry and dark red rose aromatics, with a slight orange peel note. Mouth-filling notes of chocolate covered cherries, light roasted coffee and a brambly berry finish.

VINTAGE

The 2019 harvest started later than usual in Sonoma County. February brought heavy rain to the Russian River Valley area, but because the vines were in their winter dormancy, it did not affect the crop. Spring continued to be wet with some rain during flowering, followed by cool temperatures that allowed the grapes to mature gradually. Vintners are praising the full flavors, fresh acidity, and superb balance of the vintage.

FERMENTATION & AGING

The grapes were crushed and cold soaked before fermentation. When fermentation was complete, the wine was aged in older medium-plus American and French oak barrels for 18 months, for an elegant and well-structured finish.

VINEYARDS

Our Merlot grapes are sourced from our estate vineyard in the Russian River Valley on the winery ranch and a mix of selected fruit from Sonoma County regions known for conditions especially suited to growing Merlot.

TECHNICAL DATA

Varietal: 100% Merlot
Alcohol: 14.5%
TA: 0.62g/100 ml
pH: 3.35
UPC: 711408012433

