

LAZARRE WINES 2016 MERLOT PASO ROBLES

I love Merlot. Good Merlot to be exact. And one of my missions in life is to change people's minds about the grape variety. Those in the know are aware that well-made Merlot from a great region is a grape of passion that can be both explosive and subtle at the same time. It certainly is one of the most versatile red wines, capable of pairing with an extreme variety of foods. Unfortunately, most people wouldn't know a good Merlot if it jumped up and bit them on the ass.

Our 2016 Paso Robles Merlot is all from a single vineyard this year. The Margarita Ranch is a large vineyard near the top of the Cuesta Grade and just to the south of the town of Santa Margarita in the southernmost part of Paso Robles. It is pretty much its own sub-appellation and is unique for the deposits of fossilized seashells and cooler climate due to its proximity to the ocean. As Merlot does best almost where Pinot grows, the resulting wines from this vineyard are dark and fairly tannic, with an almost Bordeaux-like quality. Very expressive and we like it that way. Our Merlot is exciting to us and we hope you get the same kick out of drinking it as we do.

Aromatics of blackberries, cedar wood, with hints of dried herbs. Rich, ripe, and round flavors of black cherries and dark chocolate with pretty woody notes wrap around the tongue in a mouth-filling cacophony of flavor. Sturdy tannins and a bright acidity provide support and structure. This wine will pair well with foods as diverse as lamb, pork, and pastas.

-Adam Remember the Leopard!

Appellation: Paso Robles

Varietal: 100% Merlot

Cases Produced: 90

Alcohol: 14.0% pH: 3.60 TA: 0.61

Cooperage: 18 months in 60% new French oak barrels 40% American oak barrels

Bottling date: July 03, 2018

Suggested Retail: \$36

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