

McINTYRE

2015 Merlot, Kimberly Vineyard Arroyo Seco

Overview

Steve McIntyre is one of the most knowledgeable viticulturists in California. As owner/operator of Monterey Pacific, he and his team manage 12,000 acres of vines in Monterey County and have planted or farmed nearly one quarter of the vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. The McIntyre Estate Vineyard lies in the heart of SLH. The Kimberly Vineyard is in the warmer Arroyo Seco AVA just to the south. It produces deep, powerful, well-structured Merlots. Both were among the first properties in the Santa Lucia Highlands to be SIP (Sustainability In Practice) Certified.

Vineyard

While Monterey County is more commonly associated with superb Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, the Kimberly Vineyard has quietly been producing some of California's most compelling and complex Merlots. The site is situated at the mouth of the Arroyo Seco canyon, just beyond the reach of the intense Salinas Valley winds. Consequently, this 'Goldilocks' microclimate is much warmer than the surrounding properties allowing us to fully ripen Merlot without sacrificing structure or balance. This wine comes from 20-year-old vines (clone 181, 110R rootstock) grown in north/south oriented rows. Each plant is thinned to one cluster per shoot immediately after bloom to maximize the amount of flavor, structure and aroma precursors Mother Nature can "download" into the berry.

Winemaking

The 2015 vintage was another nearly perfect growing season with few climatic extremes. The long hang-time allowed the vines to linger in the photosynthetic "sweet spot." This accelerated the various benchmarks associated with vine physiology such as bloom, fruit set and veraison. After a five-day cold soak, the juice was fermented in small, half-ton bins with little intervention other than twice daily pumpovers and the occasional punch down. Once in barrel, the wine was not raked until just prior to bottling. Definitely minimalistic winemaking.

Steve's Tasting Notes

"Our 2015 Kimberly Vineyard is the epitome of Goldilocks-climate Merlot. It marries the lavish, ripe fruit of a warm site with the elegance and structure of a cool locale. As in previous years, the dominant character traits include blackberry, anise, cassis and dried currants. Below that is a bed of juicy black fruit and supple, silky tannins. While it drinks well now, this Merlot will continue to evolve and improve over the next decade."

Vital Statistics

Composition	100% Merlot
Vineyard	Kimberly Vineyard
AVA	Arroyo Seco
Clone/Rootstock:	181 with 110R
Total Acidity	0.63 g/100ml
PH	3.61
Alcohol	14.0 %
Cases Produced	190
SRP	\$25.00

