
BRAVE & MAIDEN

E S T A T E

TECHNICAL NOTES

2018 LIMITED MERLOT

The color of rubies, the wine has purple shiny glints when you swirl it in the glass. It's focused and intense with blue fruit notes as well as graphite, meringue, caramel, and vanilla bean. It is complex and taut with black currant, cloves, dark chocolate, and almost finishes with hints of coffee.

VITICULTURE

<i>AVA</i>	Los Olivos District, Santa Ynez Valley
<i>Year(s) Planted</i>	1996 - 1998
<i>Clone(s)</i>	181
<i>Harvest Date(s)</i>	15th of September and 7th of October
<i>Vintage Notes</i>	The 2018 vintage was a return of cooler weather (such as 2010 & 2011). Another winter with rain was helpful in supplying the soil and plants with water. Spring was cooler than normal, but no significant frost events. With the cool spring, budbreak was delayed by 2-3 weeks. No extreme weather during set, which helped with good set and good yields. Summer was warm and promoted ripeness, but late summer and early fall were much cooler than past vintages and pushed harvest well into November. Despite the long drawn out harvest, crop levels were ample and fruit matured with excellent flavors and plenty of acid.

WINEMAKING

<i>Description</i>	De-stemmed and hand-sorted to 3-4 ton fermenters, fermented for approximately 21 days. Barreled down to 100% French oak, approximately 33% new and aged for 17 months. 2018 was a fantastic vintage for Merlot which is at once fresh and powerful.
<i>Blend</i>	100% Merlot
<i>Alcohol</i>	15%
<i>pH</i>	3.78
<i>Total Acid</i>	0.63 mg/100mL
<i>Residual Sugar</i>	none
<i>Bottle Date</i>	31st of March 2020

RELEASE

<i>Cases</i>	294
<i>Release Date</i>	September 2021
<i>SRP</i>	\$68