

Napa Valley
MERLOT

# TASTING NOTES

Deep, dark red color with garnet tones. Blackcurrant and cherry aromas are beautifully integrated with earthy, chocolate notes. This wine is layered with juicy blackberry, cherry, espresso and clove notes, while remaining varietally correct with subtle tannins and a smooth, fruit-driven mouthfeel.

# BLEND

93% Merlot (Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley)

5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec

## Winemaking Notes

The Merlot expressed traditional red fruit notes with a touch of oakiness. The wine was fermented in a stainless steel tank and aged in 100% French oak barrels for 17 months. Blending took place in November 2015 where we added Cabernet Franc for its floral element, Petit Verdot for its earthiness, and Malbec for a its dark fruit impact. After blending, the wine was returned to the barrels until bottling.

#### BOTTLING

Date: March 22, 2016 Alcohol: 14.7% pH 3.49, Total Acidity 7.2g/L

Released: August, 2016

## VINEYARD NOTES

2014 is the first year Greyscale Wines produced a single vineyard Merlot from the Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley. Located in the southern end of the Napa Valley with cooler temperatures, many believe this region provides the best terroir for producing premium Merlot wine. Because the vineyard is near the Mayacamas Mountain benchland, it has a significant component of alluvial soil which contains organic material making the area quite fertile. It it planted to Merlot Clone 181 that traces its origins to Pomerol in Bordeaux.

### Merlot

AVA: Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley
Harvest Date: 9/12/2014
Brix: 26.0, TA: 4.5
pH: 3.57



## ABOUT GREYSCALE WINES

"Making wine is living our dream. Growing up with a family vineyard, avidly collecting wines for years,

wine tasting in Bordeaux, and developing a curiosity about winemaking inspired us to create our own wine. Our goal is to produce small-lots of premium Napa Valley wines from the most prestigious vineyards in the valley.

> Jean & Larry Rowe Proprietors

# About the Winemaker Kian Tavakoli

With almost 20 years of winemaking, operations and viticultural experience, Kian Tavakoli brings a stellar combination of sensory and production skills to Greyscale Wines. Having gradu-



ated with a degree in enology from UC Davis in 1992, Kian spent 4 years learning cabernet wine-making at Opus One before he became winemaker at Clos Du Val where he ran their red wine program including the highly acclaimed reserve bottlings. Kian's passion for Bordeaux style wines is the perfect complement to our Greyscale family wine philosophy. We are pleased that he has been our only winemaker since we started in 2008.

"Wine is neither black nor white. It's always shades of grey"
www.greyscolewines.com

