



CHATEAU MONTELENA WINERY  
ESTABLISHED 1882



# Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

## Napa Valley, California

### ESTATE

Chateau Montelena's history is one of the deepest and most storied in the Napa Valley and California. Founded just north of Calistoga in 1882, it was one of the largest wineries in the state. Prohibition put an end to Montelena's winemaking, and the next major era began in 1968, when Jim Barrett purchased the estate. Jim fell in love with this exceptional property, blessed with a complex mix of soils, slopes and biodiversity of wildlife and fauna. He had a dream of creating wine at the level of the great First Growths of Bordeaux, and set about replanting the vineyard, outfitting the winery with modern equipment, and studying the processes necessary for farming and winemaking at the highest quality level.

### WINE

Jim Barrett's dream of Chateau Montelena was that this wine, their flagship Cabernet Sauvignon, achieve the balance and complexity of flavors, aromas and textures to be considered among the great examples of Cabernet in the world. Almost since his first vintages in the 1970s, this wine has been a show-stopper that has everything in place, while revealing the majesty and distinctive character of the estate vineyard site that the Barretts led to recognition as its own appellation, Calistoga. Today, the 50-year legacy of excellence in farming, crafting and blending powerful wines and continued innovation is what sets Chateau Montelena Winery apart.

### VINEYARD

*Soils:* The diversity of soils and slopes in the Estate Vineyard directly translates to layers of complexity and depth in the glass. It is comprised of varied terrain, from flat to steep hillsides with sedimentary, alluvial and volcanic soils.

*Farming:* This wine is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is sustainably farmed and produced in their solar powered winery.

*Grape Varieties:* 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

### WINEMAKING

*Fermentation:* Temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks to allow the wines to ferment slowly and evenly.

*Aging:* 22 Months in 100% French oak barrels (40% new).

*Alcohol:* 14.1% ABV

### VINTAGE

*Climate:* A relatively warm overall vintage Budbreak occurred early again in 2015 which equals an early start. The temperatures remained mild during the summer and the harvest began on September 13th. The harvest was small and exceptional in Calistoga.

### VINOUS MEDIA

"A powerful, intense wine, the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate Montelena exudes depth and textural richness, all with the tannic and structural underpinning that is such a signature of the Montelena Cabernets. Black cherry, plum, lavender, licorice, and smoke build as this voluptuous, racy Cabernet shows off the natural radiance of the year. Although the 2015 has quite a bit of density and raciness, it also retains considerable freshness. This is another drop-dead gorgeous wine from Chateau Montelena."

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