

BROWN

NAPA VALLEY

BROWN ESTATE 2018 MERLOT

In 2014 David got a lead on available Merlot fruit from nearby Dollar Ranch in the Chiles Valley — the same Napa Valley district, or sub-appellation, where Brown Estate is located. He put in for it and for the last five vintages it has been a staple and ultimately an anchor in our Chaos Theory blend. All the while our barrel tastings of this wine through the years have persuaded us, vintage by vintage, that it deserved a stand-alone bottling. We don't mind mentioning Merlot was a gateway wine for all of us when we were finding our way as newbie consumers, and we actually recalibrated the Chaos Theory blend for 2018 to make this bottling possible. We hope you'll agree it was a good call on both counts.

Technical

Composition: 100% Merlot

Vineyard source: Dollar Ranch in Chiles Valley

Appellation: Napa Valley

Barrel aging: 11 months in 30% new oak, 50/50 French/American

ABV: 14.5%

pH: 3.62

TA: 6.8 g/L

Production: 425 cases in 12 x 750ml format

Sensory

Eye: Ruby core with fuschia rim.

Nose: Spun sugar, cinnamon, boysenberry, buttermilk biscuits, farmers market taffy, rose water, white nectarine, new Italian leather, subtle herbaceous and vegetal notes.

Palate: Decadent black and blue fruits, medium body, long, silky finish.

Cellar life: Drink now through 2030.