



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E

2016 Malbec

Production: 154 cases

Composition: 90% Malbec and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

Vineyards: Baker, Beau Terroir, Polson Road, Windy Flats and Villagio

Appellation: Napa Valley

Elevation: Foothills, valley floor and hillsides (1,500 ft.)

Cooperage: 50% new oak, mostly Treuil Terroir, Orion, and Tonnelerie O Flash Elevage

Alcohol: 14.9%, TA 0.59, pH 3.84

Bottling date: March 21, 2018

Release date: Fall 2019

Release price: \$60.00

Malbec has become a quiet cult favorite, and we have made some wonderful Malbecs that normally go into our Cabernet Sauvignon, but we wanted to let our club members share some of the excitement. We again made two Malbec lots in 2016, one from earlier ripening fruit, and one from our cooler southern areas. Both ripened fully and deeply, so that we can make Malbec with dark fruity charm and big color. Malbec has become increasingly successful in some parts of the world, and it is becoming a favorite in Napa Valley. We only made a small quantity for the adventurous, and we hope it catches on, because it is so much fun to drink.

Winemaker Alison Doran's tasting notes:

The 2016 Malbec needs a bit of decanting before releasing aromas of blueberries, plum, and cocoa. The palate is similar to a classic Malbec. It's big and rich, with soft plum and blueberry fruit that purrs along with enough acidity to engage, but it has a deeper structure rumbling below the surface.