



HILL FAMILY  
E S T A T E



## 2017 “Beau Terre Vineyard” Merlot

**Production:** 500 cases

**Composition:** 87% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Syrah and 2% Malbec

**Vineyards:** Beau Terre, Beau Terroir, Stewart, Baker and Windy Flats

**Appellations:** Oak Knoll, Atlas Peak and Carneros,

**Elevations:** Valley floor - 1,200 ft.

**Cooperage:** 40% new oak =10% Trust Hungarian, 30% French oak (Treuil, Tonnellerie O, Orion, Nadalier)

**Alcohol:** 14.8%, TA 0.58, pH 3.72

**Bottling date:** April 17, 2019

**Release date:** December 2020

**Release price:** \$49.00

Hill Family Estate takes Merlot quite seriously, and we believe the Merlot grape has a lot to offer that is different from Cabernet Sauvignon. The Beau Terre vineyards are centerpieces for Doug Hill’s accumulated viticultural knowledge. From the row spacing to the trellising, the row direction and the clones selected, everything has been carefully thought out to give Merlot its best expression. 2017 had a lot of rain in the winter, so bud break and flowering were delayed. A few hot spells, hail, and mildew pressure kept everyone vigilant. The vines made it through the adverse weather conditions and flavor and color accumulation were gradual, but the flavors were dense and serious.

### **Winemaker Alison Doran’s tasting notes:**

The 2017 Beau Terre Merlot presents lovely aromas of black cherry and boysenberry fruit, with a hint of mocha. True to the aromas, boysenberry and plum flavors fill the palate with a core of ripe tannins and acidity that keep the wine lively and intense. Savory mocha and hazelnut flavors round out the finish.