



2018 Merlot

Testa Vineyard

Mendocino

We've been making wines for nearly twenty years, but that doesn't stop us from exploring our curiosities and continually making new wines! With much effort, a precious 25 cases were made just for our members. We're so excited to announce that the 2018 Merlot from Maria Testa and Rusty's vineyard is the very first vintage of this lovely and delicate wine. Fun fact: certified badass Maria Testa is the 4th generation in her family to farm these vines.

While many Merlots out there flaunt robust flavors and velvety texture, ours does no such thing. We have always been among if not THE first to pick at our vineyards and the Merlot is no exception. Our Merlot is worthy of contemplation, slow-sipping and conversations deep into the night. Our bittersweet thought is that so few cases exist, so we'll enjoy them while we can.

Appellation: Mendocino

Vineyard: Testa

Varietal: Merlot

Age: Planted 1995

Elevation: 1300 ft.

Soil: Decomposed sandstone & Pinnobie loam

Harvested: September 13, 2018

Pressed: October 4, 2018

Fermentations: Wild yeast & bacteria in wood tank & neutral French oak barrels

Maceration: 21 days

Aging: 16.5 months in wood tank & neutral French oak barrels

Bottled: February 12, 2020

Production: 22 cases

Release date: Fall 2020, EXCLUSIVE FOR CONNOISSEUR MEMBERS



Tasting Note:

For those who seek the calm of the woods, you will love this wine. It carries the scent of rainy lichen and wet moss, citrus leaf and tangerine skins. This is not your dad's Merlot, but he'd probably like it for other reasons. Enjoy slightly chilled with boquerones on toast, tinned fish, or classic sausage pizza.