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## MERLOT

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### Wine

Like man's best friend, Merlot has that straightforward, easy-going generosity that makes it so likeable. We bottled that charming personality in a medium-bodied, velvety wine brimming with ripe plum and juicy black cherry. The palate is supple and smooth with succulent cherry-berry middle and lasting tannins. Oak aging lends a hint of warm spices and structure. This is a great wine for gathering with friends or pairing with food. Serve it alongside lamb ragout, mushroom risotto or even a chocolate dessert.

### Vineyard

Grapes for our Merlot come from vineyards throughout California, which are known for its warm, sun-filled days and cool, maritime breezes in the evenings. This dry Mediterranean climate enables the grapes to develop full, ripe flavors during the day while retaining fine balancing acids from nighttime cooling. To further the intensity of the flavors, winemakers carefully monitor vines, ensuring the grapes develop full, ripe flavors and mature tannins before harvesting.

### Winemaking

Our Merlot is crafted to be approachable and friendly, expressing the rich character of the varietal. Following harvest, the grapes were de-stemmed, crushed and placed into temperature controlled stainless steel for fermentation. During this time, we maintained good contact between the juice and skins with regular pump-over, fully extracting and incorporating the aromas and flavors of the fruit. The wine was then aged for seven months with a combination of American and French oak.

### Winemaker

It's true what they say about the similarities between an owner and his dog. In this case, Duke is a perfect reflection of Winemaker Marty Spate's bigger-than-life personality. Marty, who grew up with dogs, has always had a soft spot for the friendly, easy-going and dependable Great Danes. And, when you meet Marty, you can tell he picked up a few characteristics from his dogs as well.

For the past 16 years, Marty has been making wines, including several collaborative projects that take him around the world. For him, Chateau La Paws is a homage to that journey – that ultimately takes us back home to the comfort of our loyal dogs.



### Key Facts

- A charming, easy-to-like Merlot with juicy cherry, plum and mocha character.
- To encourage plush, layered flavors in the wine, we selected our grapes from several vineyards throughout California.
- Inspired by our shelter dogs, we put less emphasis on the vintage and more on character.
- Proceeds from our wines support no-kill shelters.

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### Wine Data

**Vintage:** NV

**Varietal Composition:**  
100% Merlot

**Oak Aging:**  
7 months  
40% French oak  
60% American oak  
100% New oak

**Appellation:** California

**Alcohol:** 13.0%

**Acidity:** 5.4 g/L

**pH:** 3.52

**Ageability:** 2015 to 2016