

# 2017 Rive Gauche

## Napa Valley



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**Varietal Composition** 38% Merlot, 30% Petit Verdot, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Grenache, 5% Malbec

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**Appellation** Napa County and Sonoma County

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**Harvest** September & October 2017

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**Technical Data** ALC: 14.5% by vol.; TA: 6.6 g/L; pH: 3.53

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**Cooperage** 100% French Oak Barrels (30% New)

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**Production** 450 Cases

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### The 2017 Vintage

The 2017 vintage saw generous winter rains that refreshed ground water supplies and led to a cool, mild spring which prepared the vineyards for the summertime heat. Harvest began for Artesa on August 11 and moved quickly. A long, even summer ripening season ended with high temperatures in excess of 100 degrees for five days in early August. As a result harvest was completed for us by late September, weeks ahead of usual, and before the devastating fires that broke out on October 8. The 2017 wines show ripe, concentrated flavors and excellent balance.

### About The Vineyard

Napa and Sonoma County can be generally characterized as having a Mediterranean climate, but its sub-appellations feature many micro-climates suitable for growing wine grapes with distinctly different characteristics. We sourced the Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot from two of the top sub-appellations in the Napa Valley, Oakville and Rutherford. These distinct areas bring depth and complexity to the finished wine. The remaining varietals originated from Alexander Valley, in Sonoma County. While summer daytime temperatures are hot enough to suit these heat-loving red grapes, the rapid cooling effect of evening fog from the nearby Pacific Ocean protects their flavor-boosting acidity as they ripen.

### Winemaking

Hand harvested at night to preserve integrity and acidity, the grapes were brought straight to the winery where they were de-stemmed, but not crushed. Placed in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks, the individual components of the blend were fermented for an average of 21 days, with two to three daily pumpovers. After fermentation, the wines were pressed off the skins and transferred to 100% French oak barrels (30% new) where they aged separately for about 20 months. Racked two times, the wine was carefully blended based on multiple tastings prior to bottling.

### Tasting Notes

This Limited Release wine was sourced from several hillside and valley vineyards throughout Napa and Sonoma County. The wine offers aromas of blackberry, redcurrant and cherry. The concentrated flavors of plum, raspberry and Dutch cocoa linger on the palate and the fine tannins melt away into a long, luscious finish.