



# 2018 IRONSTONE RESERVE MERITAGE



## WINE DATA

### Producer

Ironstone Vineyards

### Region

Sierra Foothills, California

### Country

United States

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### Wine Composition

82% Cabernet  
Sauvignon,  
13% Merlot,  
3% Petit Verdot

### Alcohol

14.5%

### Total Acidity

5.0 G/L

### Residual Sugar

3.8 G/L

### pH

3.7

## DESCRIPTION

For the 2018 vintage, the winemaker chose three of the noble Bordeaux grape varieties to be a part of this blend which is an exceptionally elegant and full-bodied wine. Aromas of blackberry jam, cassis and cola layered by mint and white pepper are displayed. Luscious cooked-berry fruit fills the mouth with hints of vanilla, and rich blackberry carries through to a smooth and well-rounded finish.

## WINEMAKER NOTES

Located at 2,400 feet above sea level, these grapes were estate-grown at the winery's Hay Station Ranch vineyard, where warm days are cooled by the evening mountain air. This area's unique soil of decomposed granite mixed with volcanic sediment and red clay produce a wonderful mineral component. Grapes have been grown in the Sierra Foothills for 150 years.

The Kautz family has been promoting and working with sustainable viticulture for over 35 years. Crop reduction, leaf removal, organic materials and drip irrigation are used throughout the vineyards to improve the quality and intensity of flavors. Cover crops, which attract beneficial insects, are also employed. In addition, owl boxes and wood duck boxes are placed around the vineyards and ponds to help preserve the surrounding habitats.

This reserve wine was aged for 12 months in small French & American oak barrels.

## SERVING HINTS

Serve at room temperature with simple dishes, such as coq au vin, roasted leg of lamb and braised beef brisket.