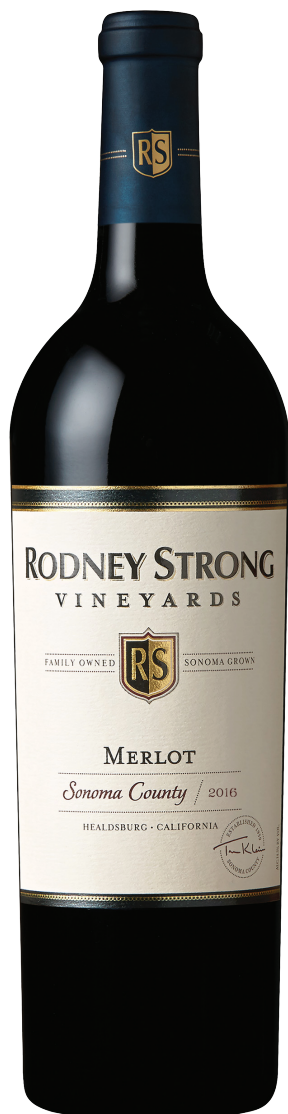


## SONOMA COUNTY MERLOT 2016



### OUR STORY

*Since 1959, our passion has been to craft best in class wines in our sustainable winery to share with friends and family. Our family-owned winery is committed to quality wines and to protecting our resources for the future. We are solar powered, certified sustainable, practice Fish Friendly Farming and we were the first winery in Sonoma County to offset our carbon footprint. With an eye on the future, innovation in the cellar and the vineyards is at the heart of all that we do.*

### HISTORY

We've been growing Merlot since the early 1970s, when Rod Strong first planted it in Geyserville, the heart of Alexander Valley. Today we continue to farm Merlot in three Estate vineyards in Alexander Valley, where it grows into grapes that display the deep dark fruit flavors and mature tannins typical of a warmer American Viticultural Area

### THE VINTAGE & VINEYARD

Early winter showers, with a good amount of rain, were followed by a warm, dry spring. Alternating overcast days and heat waves continued through spring and summer, with a warm July and August. Overcast days in mid to late August, kept the mornings cool, preserving acidity and warm daytime temperatures led to perfectly ripe fruit. Satisfied with the quality and with all things in balance, Merlot was harvested August 29 through October 11.

### TASTING NOTES

Our 2016 Sonoma County Merlot has aromas of blackberry, fig compote and cassis. Medium bodied with soft tannins, this wine boasts toasty oak and spice on the mid-palate punctuated by a full and lively finish. These luscious dark fruit and toasty flavors are enhanced by aging in French oak barrels. Enjoy this soft and elegant Merlot with grilled pork chops and cherry reduction, lavender crusted lamb shanks or creamy polenta with a short rib ragu.



## RODNEY STRONG VINEYARDS

WINEMAKERS Justin Seidenfeld

ALCOHOL 14.5%

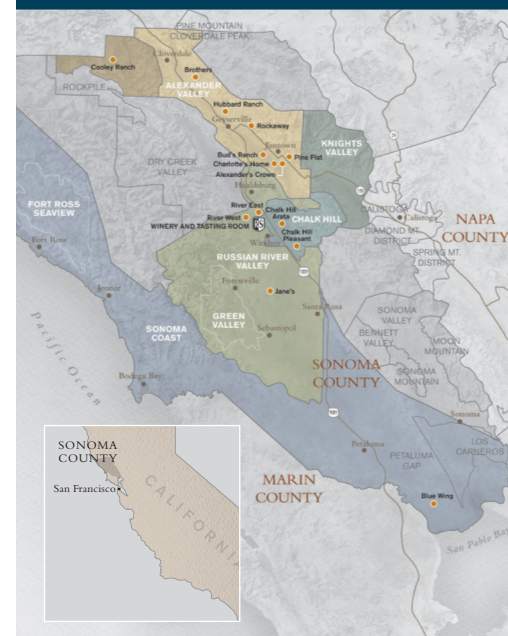
TA 0.47g/100mL

PH 3.63

APPELLATION Sonoma County

VARIETAL Merlot

CELLAR & FERMENTATION 22 months in 100%  
French oak



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