



# MERLO FAMILY

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## ESTATE VINEYARDS

## 2016 Pinot Noir

*Trinity County*



### Vineyards:

The Merlo Family Vineyards are located on the riverbanks of the wild and scenic South Fork of the Trinity River. Surrounded by 8000 ft. mountains on all sides, the vineyards are higher than most California vineyards, at an elevation of 1,250 feet. The valley floor has alluvial soils, allowing for excellent drainage and producing elegant yet complex flavors. The surrounding hillsides are composed of shallow native clay, which helps to create bold, well-structured wines. The growing season, a full three to four weeks later than that of Napa or Sonoma, allows for a much slower ripening, increasing hang time and creating full concentrated flavors without over-ripening or depleting natural acids.

### Tasting Notes:

This wine is a little shy for the first few minutes in the glass and needs to be allowed to breathe. After a few minutes a deep and savory black cherry note evolves. On the palate the wine shows rich and velvety tannins, deep fruit flavors and a pleasant mix of forest floor and mineral notes. Oak is not a big player in this wine but rather plays a minor supporting role to the voice of the vine in and the presentation of this true burgundy.

### Enology:

**Composition:** 100% Pinot Noir

**Aging:** French Oak

**pH:** 3.72      **TA:** 5.4 Gr/Lt.      **ALC:** 14.1%

**Production:** 825 cases      **Release:** Feb 2018