



CINNABAR

WINERY

Merlot **20**

Clements Hills, Lodi **16**

The Taste

Blackberry, Dark Chocolate, Sweet Oak

The Science



Alcohol

14.9%

pH

3.82

Acidity

0.52g/100ml

Varietal Content

100% Merlot

Vineyards

Lewis Vineyard

Stats

50 cases produced

Harvested Sept. 10, 2016

Released Feb. 1, 2010

The Magic



- 3 days cold soak
- Fermented 10 days in plastic open-top bins
- Fermented warm to 90 degrees
- Punched down 2–3 times per day to ensure complete fermentation
- Aged for 20 months in American oak (40% new)

The Alchemists

George Troquato, *Winemaker* & Alejandro Aldama, *Cellar Master*

The Grape



Merlot is the most widely planted variety in Bordeaux, France. It also is one of the grapes used in Bordeaux blends, and adds a round and supple character to the wine with plenty of color. The aromas of Merlot consist of fleshy red fruits such as plum and fig, as well as roasted notes of coffee and nuts.

The Land



Clements Hills is east of the town of Lodi and experiences warmer days and, unlike Lodi, cooler nights. Rolling hills with pronounced rocky soils keep yields down, allowing Cab Franc to express its true varietal character. Lewis Vineyard runs parallel to the Mokelumne River, providing the vineyard with cool evening breezes from the Sacramento Delta.

The Season

In 2016, rainfall was higher than in the previous 5 years, bringing some relief to an ongoing drought. Temperatures on average were warm, producing grapes that were fully ripe and at an above-average crop size.