



# CINNABAR

WINERY

**Merlot 20**

**San Bernabe Monterey County 18**

## The Aromas and Taste

Ripe black fruits of plums, blackberry and currants fill the aroma, Lively smooth tannins coat your mouth giving the impression of a rich mouthfeel. Toasty oak along with balanced acidity finish off this enjoyable wine.

## The Science



**Alcohol**  
14.8%

**pH**  
3.78

**Acidity**  
0.62g/100ml

**Varietal Content**  
100% Merlot

**Vineyards**  
San Bernabe  
Vineyards

### Stats

98 cases produced  
Harvested Sept. 24, 2018  
Released Nov. 14, 2020  
Age 5–7 years

## 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

## The Alchemists

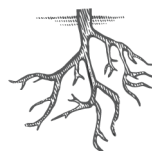
George Troquato, *Winemaker* & Alejandro Aldama, *Cellar Master*

## 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



The San Bernabe appellation has a moderate climate, similar to that of the Rhone Valley. It is located by the Salinas River on the east to the foothills of the Santa Lucia mountains on the West. The soil is a sandy loam. San Bernabe is open to the cooling breezes and sea fogs that are funneled down the Salinas Valley from the cool Monterey Bay. The vineyard site is influenced by this cool air by night and the warm days that reflect the aromas, color and spice of the specific terroir.

## The Season

In 2018, rainfall was more than adequate, allowing the vines to fully recover from the 5 year drought cycle. Temperatures were perfect throughout the year. This was truly a winemaker's ideal growing season, producing grapes that were fully ripe, long hang times with above-average crop size. Given these conditions, 2018 was an excellent vintage.