



THE VINEYARDS:

Cecil De Loach has been farming the Russian River Valley for over 40 years and was among a small group of vintners that helped define this area as one of America's premier growing regions. This Merlot was made from vines grown at Cecil's Los Amigos Ranch, a vineyard in the Chalk Hill district of the Russian River Valley.

THE GROWING SEASON:

2014 was an exceptionally good year for growing grapes in the Russian River Valley. We had a moderate winter in January and February, followed by a relatively dry spring. It warmed up in May and June, leading to an even flowering and fruit set. A nice heat spike in the Summer helped to ripen the grapes and they reached their full potential in September.

THE WINEMAKING:

Upon arriving from the vineyard, our Merlot is gently destemmed and crushed before being moved to tank to begin fermentation. During this process, we carefully return fermenting wine onto its own "cap" of grape skins to extract all of the color, flavors and tannins. We then press the remaining skins, and the resulting wine is aged for approximately 17 months in a combination of 20 hand-selected American and European oak barrels.

THE WINE:

Deep Cherry Garnet in color with notes of clove and cedar highlighting the bouquet of this Merlot. A complex palate of juicy raspberries and dusty cocoa leads to a lingering cherry spice finish. Enjoy this wine with grilled leg of lamb, or a spicy tomato pasta dish.

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