



### 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:

Despite going into the 5th year of drought, 2016 was another fantastic growing year in the Russian River Valley. Yields were larger than that of 2015 while a slightly cooler August allowed the clusters to mature more slowly and evenly than that vintage, providing great flavor and color development.

### 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 18 months in a combination of 20 hand-selected American and European oak barrels.

### THE WINE:

Deep Garnet in color with notes of clove and cedar highlight the bouquet of this Merlot. A complex palate of juicy raspberries and dry cocoa with very light tannins leads to a lingering cherry spice finish. This wine pairs very nicely with grilled lamb or a nice peppercorn steak.

2018  
MERLOT  
LOS AMIGOS RANCH

CHALK HILL

*HARVESTED*

September 21, 2018

*ALCOHOL*  
14.5%

*TA*  
.65

*pH*  
3.45

*CASES PRODUCED 700*

*AGING*  
European and American  
Oak for 18 months

25% New Oak

*ESTATE BOTTLED*  
July 24, 2018

*WINEMAKER*  
Jason De Loach

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