



# THELEMA

MOUNTAIN VINEYARDS

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## Thelema Merlot Reserve 2016

This wine is a blend of the best parcels within our merlot vineyards. A wine well structured and showing extraordinary concentrations of ripe berries and cedar wood. Will reward cellaring.

### MATURATION

Will continue to develop well for 8 years.

### FOOD PAIRING

Mushroom risotto, rich pastas and grilled meats.

### WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

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### VITICULTURAL PRACTICES

Varietal	Merlot – Clone 192
Root stock	R99
Soil type	Hutton – decomposed granite
Age of vines	Planted 1988
Plant density	3200 vines per hectare
Trellising	Vertical hedge
Pruning	2-bud spurs every 12cm
Yield	12 t/ha
Irrigation	Supplementary drip
Vintage	2016 was generally a warm and dry vintage, an exceptionally dry winter followed by a warm and windy January resulted in decreased crop levels among all varieties.
Picking date	10 February 2016
Grape sugar	26.0 °B
Acidity	5.6 g/l
pH at harvest	3.60

### WINEMAKING PRACTICES

Yeasts	Natural occurring yeasts
Fermentation temp	27 °C
Method	De-stalked, hand sorted, crushed, pumped into stainless steel fermentation tanks, cold soak for two days, and pumped over twice a day for 5 days, an aerated pump over in the morning and a closed circulation in the afternoon. After fermentation the wine is pressed and racked to barrel for malolactic fermentation.
Wood maturation	18 months in 100% new French oak barrels

### WINE DETAILS

Residual Sugar	2.1 g/l
pH	3.37
Total acid	5.9 g/l
Alcohol	14.5% by volume
Maturation	2019 – 2027