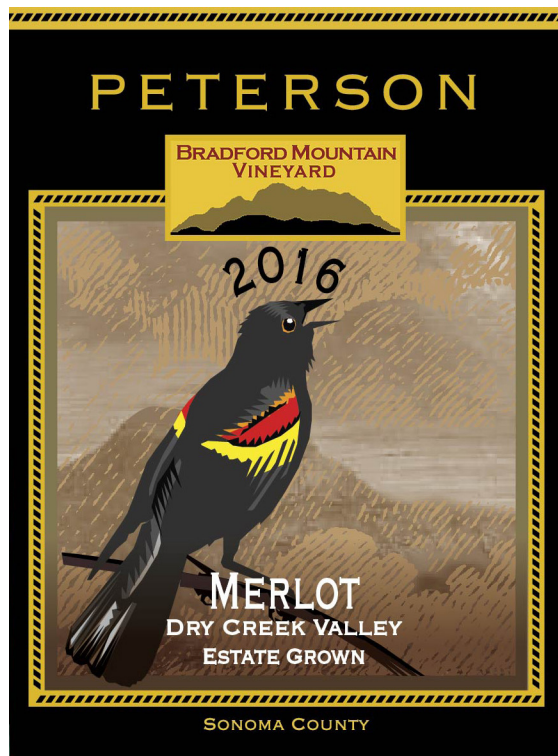


# PETERSON



**2016 MERLOT**  
**Bradford Mountain Estate Vineyard**  
**Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County**



## Tasting Notes

Dusty oak notes swirl through aromas of blackcurrant and dark cherry with just a trace of minerality. The velvety entry reveals plush tannins with bright acidity. Juicy Bing cherry, pomegranate and mocha caress the palate, while hints of spicy cedar, fine herbs, violets, and graphite enhance the flavors. The oak structure keeps a low profile until the long finish, where it contributes to the wine's complexity and depth.

A rosemary and garlic infused leg of lamb, or a juicy rib eye steak would be ideal pairings for this delicious Merlot.

## Jamie's (Peterson) Vintaged View & Vineyard Notes

When we first planted Merlot in our Bradford Mountain Estate Vineyard in the 1980s, it was mostly used as a blending component for our Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and Estate Cabernet Franc. In the mid and late 90s, my father bottled small amounts of Merlot to showcase the delicious depth of flavors capable from this varietal. These wines have held up well for over 20 years.

After a 10-year hiatus of not bottling a varietal Merlot, the quality of the grapes in 2012 convinced us to give this noble variety another round in the spotlight. In years when the grapes from our mountain vineyard are of exceptional depth, we will continue to produce a Merlot to satisfy its fervent fans.

Combining all the soft, plush quality that Merlot is known for with the structure from grapes grown at our mountain vineyard site makes for a wine I am truly proud of and never shy to share at any gathering.

## Technical Data

### Composition:

<u>Varietal Breakdown</u>	<u>Harvest Dates</u>
84% Merlot	Sept. 8
8% Petit Verdot	Sept. 27
8% Cabernet Franc	Sept. 22

**Appellation:** Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma County

**Vineyard:** Bradford Mountain Estate Vineyard

**Alcohol:** 15.0%

**pH:** 3.43

**TA:** 0.68g/100ml

**Barrel Aging:** 26 months

**Cooperage:** 50% 1-year-old French oak barrels;  
50% 2-4 year-old French oak barrels

**Bottling Date:** Dec. 13, 2018 (unfined & unfiltered)

**Production:** 50 cases - 750ml bottles

**Closure Type:** Natural cork - Amorim NDTech -  
individually scanned and TCA free

**Release Date:** October 2020