

# LEESE - FITCH

CALIFORNIA

MERLOT

2017



## BLEND

94% Merlot, 6% Petite Sirah

## APPELLATIONS

California

## ANALYSIS

pH 3.57  
TA 5.7 g/L  
ALC 14.5%

## UPC

8 33302 00242 3

## TASTING NOTES

Our 2017 Leese-Fitch Merlot offers aromas of lush cherry and raspberry. On the palate, hints of dried herbs de Provence and ripe plum lead to a short finish of this medium bodied merlot. Sourced from warm and cool climate lots in Lodi and Clarksburg, the blend of 94% Merlot and 6% Petite Sirah combine to create a juicy and rich complex wine. Try paired with a Bistro Burger or Mushroom Lasagna.

## WINEMAKER NOTES

The grapes of 2016 ripened early in hot weather and the winemaking team was able to take advantage as a number of growers had to sell their fruit before it fell apart. Super ripe Paso Robles Merlot makes up 42% of our 2016 Leese Fitch Merlot blend, adding great depth and round silky tannins to the blend. Clarksburg and Mendocino Merlot add some cool fruit nuances and blue fruit while the Lodi Merlot continues the ripe fruit march. To balance out all this ripe Merlot, we added some Lodi Cabernet Sauvignon to give the blend some much needed structure and cassis fruit notes. Clarksburg Tempranillo adds another dimension of dark raspberry fruit while Paso Robles Syrah adds more blackberry fruit with an earthy almost leathery edge to the blend.

## FOOD PAIRINGS

This Merlot pairs well with a portobello mushroom burger topped with smoked provolone cheese and fig jam, ham and pineapple pizza from your favorite Hawaiian pizza spot, or spaghetti with sweet sausage and sautéed peppers.

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