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## 2016 Meritage

### *Vintage*

A hard frost in April of 2016 meant lower yields across the state. Early budding varietals such as Merlot were hit especially hard. Late budding Petit Verdot was the star of the vintage, both in terms of quantity and quality. All ripening energy was focused on small clusters, giving us intensely flavorful, high acid fruit.

### *Vineyard*

The 2016 Meritage is 70% Estate fruit. Stinson Farms vines are cane pruned and close spaced on Braddock soil – a red clay loam derived from crystalline rocks that make up the Blue Ridge Mountains to the west. The remaining 30% comes from neighboring Turk Mountain Vineyards in Afton and Mount Fair Farm in White Hall.

### *Winemaker's Notes*

Ripe red current and black cherry combine with warm sage and spicy licorice in our 2016 blend. A Petit Verdot base contributes textured, smoky tannins. Restrained oak lends structure and length to the finish.

### *Label*

Our Local Artist Series Meritage Labels debuts with the 2016 vintage. Designed by Courtney Hopkins, it is dedicated to resident chicken-tender/flower-arranger Martha Stinson.

*Harvest Dates: September 28 – October 7, 2016*

### *Technical Notes*

Varietal Content: 35% Petit Verdot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon,  
25% Cabernet Franc, 15% Merlot

AVA: Monticello

Aged 22 months in French oak, 35% new

End pH: 3.73

Alcohol: 13.5%

Bottled: Aug 8, 2018

Case Production: 200

Release Date: September 2020

Bottle Price: \$31.99



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