



## 2018 SUSCOL RANCH

Merlot, Napa Valley



### VINEYARD DESCRIPTION

The nine-acre Suscol Ranch is located in Jamieson Canyon, south of the city of Napa. The area is very cool, with dense fog early in the season and windy conditions all year long. Planted on a gentle, north-facing knoll of deep, loamy soil, the vines are cordon trained to give the grapes maximum sun exposure. The cool conditions allow the fruit to mature slowly, gracefully developing flavors and mature tannins.

### HARVEST NOTES

With near-perfect timing and execution throughout the growing season. A cool winter eased into a mild spring that gave us extended flowering and uniform clusters throughout this cooler southern Napa Valley vineyard. Summer continued this even trend, with consistent temperatures allowing fruit to have beautiful, extended hang time. With no major heat spikes, we were able to patiently wait for every cluster to achieve perfect phenolic maturity. We began harvesting our Suscol Ranch blocks on October 15.

### SENSORY EVALUATION

Juicy and succulent with enticing aromas of plum, sage and spice, this vintage is expansive and beautifully balanced. Soft, velvet tannins support ripe red fruit and deep plum flavors, with notes of tobacco and vanilla adding nuance and depth to a finish that is at once lush and lifted.

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### APPELLATION

Napa Valley

### VARIETAL

100% Merlot

### AGING

French oak barrels  
(45% new, 55% once-used)

### RELEASE DATE

March 2021

### HARVEST DATE

October 15, 2018

### SKIN CONTACT

12 days

### TIME

18 months

### FIRST VINTAGE

1997