



## MUIRWOOD MERLOT

ARROYO SECO, MONTEREY | 2017

### BACKGROUND

The Zaninovich family has deep farming roots, spanning nearly a century. In the early 1970s, captivated by the raw beauty and exceptional potential of the undiscovered Arroyo Seco wine region of Monterey County, we pioneered vineyard planting in the area. Today, with four generations of California farming in harmony with nature, we take a long-term perspective. We are inspired by the legacy of John Muir and share a belief in the importance of nurturing the land for generations to come.

### VINEYARDS

Located southeast of the Monterey Bay in the valley adjacent to the Arroyo Seco Creek, our vineyards benefit from growing conditions and soils not found anywhere else. Seeing potential early on, we established vineyards in different growing areas of the Arroyo Seco AVA, starting in 1971 with Suter, our home ranch, Zanetta, and Los Lobos Ranches in 1988 and Wiley Ranch in 1998. Each vineyard, down to the individual vineyard blocks, possesses its own unique microclimate and soils. These conditions are reflected in the flavor profile of the grapes:

Wiley Ranch Vineyard, Vaquero Block (99%): Dark fruit, structure

Wiley Ranch Vineyard, Twin Oaks Block (1%): Balanced richness

### WINEMAKING

Grapes were harvested during cool nights and early mornings and cool-fermented in stainless steel to preserve the delicate grape aromatics and flavors. Next, the wine was racked separately by individual vineyard block lots into 100% French new and seasoned oak barrels. After aging for 18 months, individual barrels were selected and blended, including a small portion of Twin Oaks Syrah for added texture and depth. The wine received a gentle fining and filtration prior to bottling.

Varietal Composition: 99% Merlot, 1% Syrah

Technical: Alc. By Vol. 13.5%, TA 5.6%, pH 3.59

### TASTING NOTES

Black currant and cassis, toasty notes, complex finish

Food Pairings: Pizza Margherita, classic meatloaf, Moroccan chicken tagine

