

# THE BRANDER VINEYARD



## Brander 2016 Merlot, Los Olivos District

Sourced once again from the beautifully-positioned, well-drained Mesa Verde Vineyard (situated on the banks of the Santa Ynez River, just four miles due south of Brander as the crow flies), our 2016 Merlot sets a benchmark for this classic- and very classy- grape. The color of ripe Catalina plums in the glass, this opens with aromas of sun-warmed wild blackberries, and violets. On the palate this wine exhibits black cherry and carob.

Pair this absorbing and rewarding wine with crispy shredded beef tacos with avocado and cilantro, or a homemade pizza topped with apple slices, gorgonzola, and rosemary.

### Technical Information:

Cases Produced: 459

Composition: 100% Merlot

Vineyard Sources: 100% Mesa Verde

Vineyard Harvest Dates: October 4th, 2016

Chemistry: Brix: 24.3; pH: 3.30

Winemaking: Hand harvested, then carefully destemmed before crushing, this wine was racked to a combination of French and American oak barrels.

Bottling date: February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Optimal drinking window: 2017-2021



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