

# SULLIVAN<sup>®</sup>

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## RUTHERFORD ESTATE

### 2018 J.O. SULLIVAN FOUNDER'S RESERVE MERLOT

#### VINTAGE NOTES:

By all accounts 2018 was a fantastic vintage in the Napa Valley. Two years removed from drought, there was ample rain early in the year. A cool, mild spring caused bud break and flowering to be slightly behind previous years. Due to the moisture in the ground, the vine canopy became robust as temperatures started to climb, resulting in ideal, even fruit set. The growing season was relatively mild, with no major heat spikes or rain events. These perfect conditions allowed the grapes to gradually accumulate flavor and complexity over the course of the growing season. Most Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were picked in the middle of September all the way through October. The seamless season of extended hang time led to Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot wines with optimal phenolic development, complexity and concentration.

#### TASTING NOTES:

The 2018 J.O. Sullivan Founder's Reserve Merlot reflects the very best quality in making world-class Merlot. Aromatically, this wine has distinguished earthy qualities rooted in the typical notes synonymous with Rutherford Dust leading with notes of graphite, tobacco leaf and truffle and cocoa, along with an unforgettable fruitful essence that emerges from the glass. On the palate, the seriousness of the wine becomes apparent. Broad, structured and coating, the wine maintains an old-world finesse, with freshness and bright acidity. Layered, nuanced and complex, flavors of raspberries, rhubarb, crushed herbs and wet stone minerality meld together seamlessly, leaving a prolonged and satisfying finish. The polished, yet complex tannin structure, giving the wine an invitation to cellar.

#### APPELLATION:

Rutherford

#### VARIETALS:

80% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot

#### WINEMAKER:

Jeff Cole

#### RETAIL:

\$290

#### VINEYARD:

Sullivan Estate

#### PRODUCTION:

220 cases

#### BARREL AGING:

21 months  
100% New French Oak

#### ALCOHOL:

14.8%

**WINE ENTHUSIAST**

ND'



ND'

ND5'

NH'