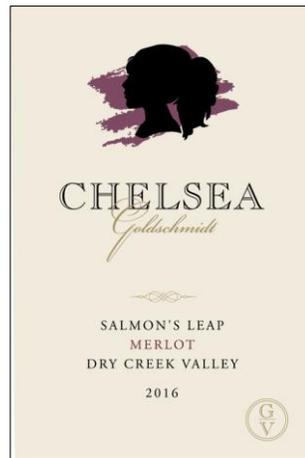


2016

# CHELSEA GOLDSCHMIDT

**SALMON'S LEAP**  
*DRY CREEK VALLEY*  
**MERLOT**

**Vintage:** 2016  
**Appellation:** Dry Creek Valley 100%  
**Release Date:** June 2018  
**Varietal:** 100% Merlot  
**Vineyard:** Salmon's Leap, 4 acres  
**Yield:** 2.9 ton/acre  
**Clone:** 337  
**pH:** 3.65  
**Total Acidity:** 5.6g/l  
**Alcohol:** 14.5%  
**ML Complete:** Yes  
**Filtered:** Yes  
**Fined:** No  
**Aging:** 60% French  
20% American  
20% Hungarian  
1 Year, 20% new  
**Production:** 520 cases



Nick Goldschmidt loves to make wine from Dry Creek. In an area known for great Zinfandel and Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot from Dry Creek can equally impress. Nick Goldschmidt sourced the fruit for this delicious wine from vineyards located near his residence in the down valley area. The valley's river soils provide just enough water retention to ward off dehydration but not enough to permit the vigorous Merlot variety to over-produce. Cane-pruning further ensures desired sugar and tannin levels.

**Vintage Notes:**

It felt more like a normal year in Sonoma County in 2016. After years of drought, the water table got renewed to full capacity by the long winter rains. Bud break came a bit early despite a cool spring. A very mild summer followed and ripening was slow and steady. We didn't get the normal high heat in July and August and got longer hang times. The clusters filled out nicely and the berries grew to normal sizes. Some unseasonably cool temperatures in mid-September put the brakes on harvest, but only temporarily. When we finished picking, the yields were a little below normal but the flavors and concentrations were stellar.

**Winemaker Comments:** "When people look for a Merlot they are seeking out a wine that has depth and volume of fruit in the mouth. Too often Merlot under-delivers with dry tannins and a distinct lack of fruit. What I look for in making this wine is a Cabernet-type merlot--one that is full and ripe and totally over-delivers. Fresh fruit is the order of the day but one with depth and complexity that only comes from great vineyards and meticulous winemaking." –Nick Goldschmidt

**Tasting Notes:**

Purple hue and purple middle. Lovely fresh blueberry and red cherry aromatics with a little mocha and white pepper. The mouth is cola and darker fruits such as blueberry and black cherry. Great ripe and supple tannins. Nice structure and a finish that is round and full.