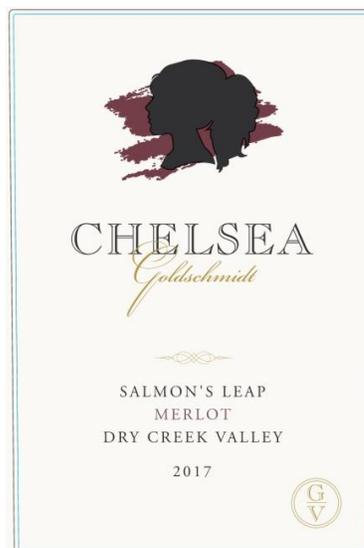


2017

# CHELSEA GOLDSCHMIDT

## SALMON'S LEAP DRY CREEK VALLEY MERLOT

**Vintage:** 2017  
**Vineyard:** Salmons Leap 100%  
**Appellation:** Dry Creek Valley 100%  
**Release Date:** May 2019  
**Varietal:** 100% Merlot  
**Vineyard Size:** Salmon's Leap, 4 acres  
**Yield:** 2.9 ton/acre  
**Clone:** 337  
**pH:** 3.67  
**Total Acidity:** 5.7g/l  
**Alcohol:** 14.5%  
**ML Complete:** Yes  
**Fined:** No  
**Aging:** 90% French  
          0% American  
          10% Hungarian  
          20% new  
**Production:** 550 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 2017. After years of drought, the water table was still in good shape after 2016. Bud break came a bit early despite a cool spring. A very mild summer followed and ripening was slow and steady. However we did receive two heat spikes in the vintage which pushed things along nicely. The clusters filled out with berries growing more normal in size. The hang time was longer than normal and so better for tannin and flavor development without a run up in sugar. Once we started picking though, the season was very compressed. The yields were down just a bit but the flavors and concentrations were fantastic.

**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:**

Lovely fresh blueberry and red cherry aromatics are laced with hints of mocha and white pepper. The mouth reveals cola and dark fruit—black plum and dark cherry—creating a purple essence mid-palate. Supple tannins and an integrated structure merge with the luscious flavors, presenting a round, full finish. Delicious now, and during the next 10 years.