



# BUTTONWOOD

WINERY & VINEYARD

## 2013 Merlot

PROUDLY GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED ON OUR SANTA YNEZ VALLEY ESTATE

### OVERVIEW

*Merle* is the French name for the black bird and our Merlot is always darkly hued. Full-bodied and supple, with earthy appeal and food-loving character. Cheese-burgers, Pastas, Picnics!

### BLEND

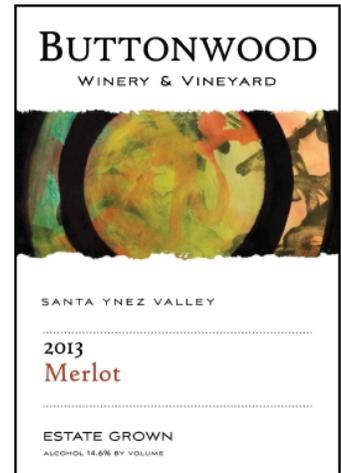
100% Merlot

### SPECS

14.6% Alcohol, 3.61 pH, 6.2 g/L acidity

### PRODUCTION

233 cases bottled in-house April 2016



### IN THE VINEYARD

Our block of Merlot could be said to be in the “heartland” of the vineyard. The four acres of vines are planted in an area that encompasses both the deepest swale and the highest points of the vineyard, and soils are both rocky alluvial and a bit of clay loam.

### THE VINTAGE

2013 was bountiful and beautiful. A return to “normal” with warm and even temperatures throughout the growing season, short-lived heat spikes and cool evenings in the summer months. The result was early seed ripening, beautiful stem lignification and superb balance. Merlot was harvested October 8th.

### WINEMAKING

The grapes were removed from stems upon delivery to the winery and inoculated with D-80 yeast. Twice daily pumpovers with délestage and then extended maceration occurred to soften the tannic structure of the wine. In November, the new wine was racked to puncheons and barriques (20% new French Oak) until March of 2016, when a barrel selection for the Merlot varietal bottling was made.

### TASTING NOTES

Medium-bodied and friendly in nature, this release of Merlot has beautiful color, striking clarity and an inviting character. Black cherry on the nose, fleshy red plum and bittersweet chocolate on the palate and hints of blueberry and beef jerky on the finish. Keep the BBQ going!

THE ARTIST SERIES LABEL ORIGINAL ART BY CO-OWNER SEYBURN ZORTHIAN