



LEAPING  
HORSE  
VINEYARDS

## 2016 Merlot

**History:** Born from a love of horses, Leaping Horse is aptly named. The Kautz family have been involved in many generations of riders and are passionate about their equine friends and partners. From an artist rendition to today's look, Leaping Horse is about unpretentious and contemporary wine styles.

**Vineyards:** The Kautz family has been promoting and working with sustainable viticulture for over 35 years. Crop reduction, leaf removal, organic materials and drip irrigation are used throughout the vineyards to improve the quality and intensity of flavors. Cover crops, which attract beneficial insects are also employed. In addition, owl boxes and wood duck boxes are placed around the vineyards and ponds helping to preserve the surrounding habitats. This Merlot comes from soils that are sandy loam and well-drained allowing the wonderful ripeness come through to the grapes.

**Winemaker Notes:** Straight-forward in style, the Leaping Horse 2015 Merlot has violet and dark fruit aromas with pleasant plum, black cherry and a little green olive character creeping into the flavor. Mouth filling yet smooth, Leaping Horse has created an unpretentious wine that can pair with just about anything.

**Chef Recommendations:** Merlot is a very versatile red that works well with many types of meats. Try ours with roast turkey or chicken, grilled blackened salmon, meat sauced pasta dishes, pork, grilled vegetables or a steak salad.

Wine Enthusiast, Aug. 2016  
Best Buy (v. 2014)

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Blend: 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Ruby Cab

Appellation: California

Sub-AVA: Lodi

Aging: Three months, New French Oak

Alcohol: 13.5%

TA: 5.87

pH: 3.45

RS: 3 g/L

UPC: 7 24826 05322 3

[www.leapinghorsevineyards.com](http://www.leapinghorsevineyards.com)