

# 2016 SONOMA VALLEY MERLOT



**Winery Retail:** \$35

**Alcohol:** 14.0% by volume

**Harvest Dates:** Sep. 7 - Sept. 30, 2016

**Production:** 33 cases (12 x 750ml)

**Blend:** 95% Merlot; 3% Cabernet Franc; 2% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Vineyards:** 79% Sangiacomo Kiser; 21% Rancho Salina

**Fermentation:** Up to 14 days in stainless steel tanks, punched down 2-4 times daily

**Aging / Cooperage:** 24 months in 20% new French and American oak

**Release Date:** October 1, 2020

**Acidity:** TA: 7.1g/L; pH: 3.29

**Brix at Harvest:** 25.4 degrees

**Appellation:** 100% Sonoma Valley

*This classically structured Merlot is crafted in the Bordeaux style that Walter Schug pioneered in California while wine master of Joseph Phelps Vineyards (1973 to 1983). The Merlot grapes were mostly grown on the Sangiacomo vineyards in the Carneros district of southern Sonoma Valley. This cooler microclimate provides the longer growing season necessary for Merlot to ripen slowly and develop maximum flavor, while retaining good acid balance. Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon from Rancho Salina add depth and elegance. This Merlot has flavors of blackberries and dark cherries, layered with hints of spice and vanilla. It pairs well with a variety of foods like lightly-spiced dark meats, pasta and grilled fish. Enjoy now or cellar it for up to another 5 to 7 years.*

2014 Vintage



90 POINTS

2013 Vintage

**Wine & Spirits** 91 POINTS

Schug Carneros Estate Winery  
(707) 939-9363 - [www.schugwinery.com](http://www.schugwinery.com)