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N A P A V A L L E Y

*MELANSON VINEYARD*  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON  
2016

**VINEYARD** Pritchard Hill is one of Napa Valley's great sites for big boned, dense, very complex Cabernet Sauvignons. Greg Melanson's vineyard is very steep with rows running up and down the hill directly across from Colgin Winery and Estate vineyard. Beyond Colgin its rocky face looks down at Napa Valley's floor. Like many of the best sites on Pritchard Hill, its higher elevation and afternoon breezes coming from the Pacific cools the vineyard in the warm afternoons. Ideal real estate for world class Cabernet.

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**WINEMAKING** The Melanson Cabernet is from two blocks on this very steep Pritchard Hill vineyard. They were co-fermented and spent an additional week on the skins to better balance the wine and pull out some more sweet tannins. This was matured in 90% Taransaud and 10% Darnajou small French oak barrels. As always, this was bottled both unfinned and unfiltered after 19 months in oak.

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**WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES** The Melanson Vineyard Cabernet always stands out for its dense Pritchard Hill fruit profile. This year's version has that same profile but with a bit more finesse and a very seamless palate impression. This has loads of baking spices and red fruits on the nose. On the palate there is the classic blue and black fruits of Pritchard Hill. A classic Melanson Cabernet in a vintage with outstanding class and refinement.

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**VINTAGE** To put it simply – this was one of our great modern vintages in the Napa Valley. It almost had a Bordeaux feeling to it – moderate rainfall for all but three months before the real rains arrived in October. By then, everything was in the barn. No significant heat spikes, which made for a very long, even growing season. I have only one complaint with our vineyard sites – I wish I had more grapes to harvest. Cluster size and weights were down, and we were 20% off average when we finished picking. It was one of those years when everything lined-up; you couldn't help but wish for more grapes. Spectacular quality, both reds and whites. The wines have deep colors, structure, concentration, and depth of flavor.

**CASES PRODUCED:** 250

