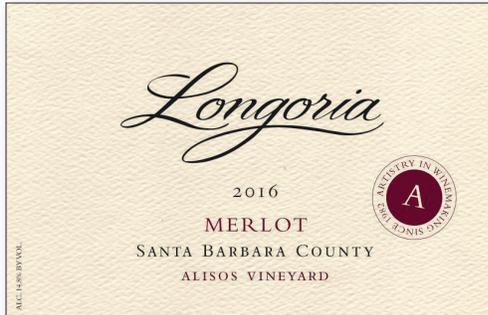


# Longoria

ARTISTRY IN WINEMAKING SINCE 1982



## 2016 MERLOT

Santa Barbara County – Alisos Vineyard

### Inspiration

My experience with producing Merlot in Santa Barbara County reaches back 40 years. I started bottling a varietal Merlot under the Longoria label in 1992, but stopped in 2000; partly due to the market's response to how Merlot was unfairly portrayed in the movie "Sideways". However, Merlot continued to be an important component in our Evidence and Blues Cuvée blends. Without a doubt, my favorite vineyard source for Merlot is Alisos Vineyard located a few miles east of Los Alamos. The 2016 vintage was so exceptional that I was moved to bottle one barrel to exemplify the wine's extraordinary potential.

### Winemaking

I consider the 2016 vintage one of the best in recent years. The Merlot grapes at Alisos Vineyard were harvested on September 30th with a sugar content of 25.0 Brix. The grapes were 100% destemmed and crushed into a small open-top fermenter. After cold soaking for four days, the must was inoculated with yeast to start fermentation. After 14 days the wine was pressed off, settled and racked to French oak barrels, of which 21% were new. After 21 months of aging, the wine was fined, filtered and bottled in July 2018.

### The Wine

The wine has an extremely dark red, opaque color and brooding aromas of ripe figs, black cherries and vanillin. The palate is greeted with rich flavors of black cherries and anise. The strong tannins indicate the wine will benefit from extended bottle aging.

### Food Pairings

This robust wine will pair well with the heartiest of meals including grilled flat iron steak with blue cheese butter, roast leg of lamb with rosemary and garlic or stuffed Portobello mushrooms with crisped goat cheese.

Rick Longoria, Winemaker  
March 1, 2019

### TECHNICAL NOTES

#### Composition:

Merlot – Alisos Vineyard (97%)

Cabernet Sauvignon – Happy Canyon Vineyard (3%)

**Production:** 24 cases

**Alcohol by volume:** 14.8%

**pH:** 3.78

**Titrateable acidity:** 0.59g/100ml

**Cellaring potential:** Seven to ten years

**Bottle price:** \$48.00