



## 2018 Merlot Over and Play Dead

***This is not a wimpy Merlot.*** Slightly tongue-in-cheek, but this has always been the motto for our Merlot Over and Play Dead. Winemaker Brenda Lynch's focus has always been on picking ripe Merlot fruit to get the black and red fruits she loves, and to get soft and ripe tannins. The wine's label captures this "attitude"... a big, beefy bulldog saying "bite me" is our way of saying this is not your typical Merlot.

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### Brenda's Winemaking... Great fruit & cold beer

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**It's all about the fruit.** For her "Dog Series" wines, Brenda has one goal in mind - create fruit-forward wines with varietally true aromatics, mid palate weight and flavor, and a full bodied and balanced finish. Brenda sources her fruit from a variety of appellations within California always letting the quality of the fruit drive her selections. Her travels always seem to have stops in towns for a cold beer at the local pub, which she claims are an equally important part of her winemaking!

Winemaker Brenda Lynch is very excited about her 2018 Merlot. For the second time, she sourced her Merlot grapes from an amazing vineyard in Russian River Valley, Sonoma County. She then aged the wine for 11 months in used French oak barrels to add richness and complexity. What a combination! Beautiful ripe red fruits (elderberries come to mind) are followed by licorice and mocha flavors from the French oak barrels... simply delicious!

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### Tasting Notes

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Our 2018 Merlot Over and Play Dead is medium-ruby in color and opens with fruit-forward aromas and flavors of red plums and cherries, with hints of black pepper spice and savory notes of tea leaf. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, nicely balanced and with a smooth, though dry finish.

We look for food pairings that combine Merlot's natural affinity for beef with flavors that match the savory qualities of the wine. Our favorite is grilled hamburger, medium rare, covered in sauteed shitake mushrooms. A close second is meatloaf smothered in smoky bbq sauce.



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### Information

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Vintage:	2018
Appellation:	Sonoma County
% Merlot:	100%
Alcohol:	14.0%



Brenda Lynch

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