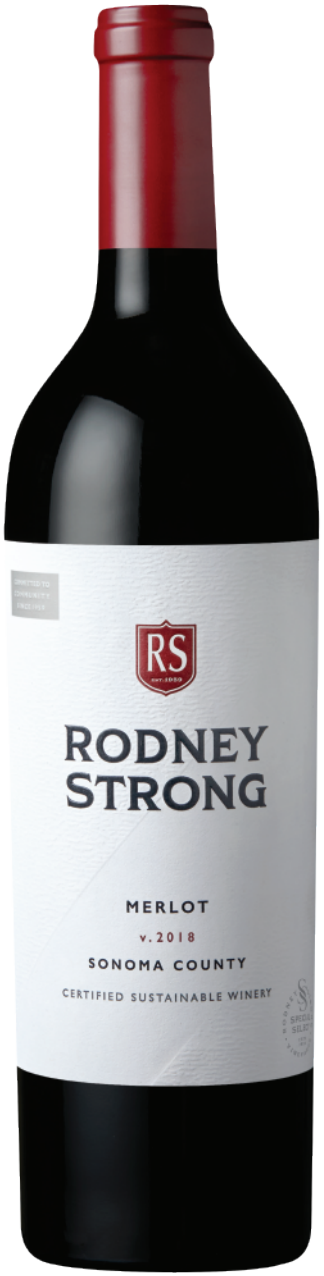
RODNEY STRONG



MERLOT

SONOMA COUNTY
SPECIAL SELECT
2018

WINEMAKERS	Justin Seidenfeld
ALCOHOL	14.5%
TA	0.56g/100mL
PH	3.53
APPELLATION	Sonoma County
VARIETAL	90% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petite Sirah, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Syrah
CELLAR & FERMENTATION	24 months in French oak barrels, 20% new

Certified Sustainable Winery
www.rodneystrong.com

OUR STORY

Started in 1959 by Sonoma County pioneer Rod Strong and led by the Klein family since 1989, Rodney Strong Vineyards is a family of passionate people committed to crafting premium wines, great experiences and delivering a vision for sustainability in Sonoma County. We are united by our passion for wine and the belief that nothing brings people together better than sharing a great bottle of Rodney Strong wine.

HISTORY

We've been growing Merlot since the early 1970s, when Rod Strong first planted it in Geyserville, the heart of Alexander Valley. Today we continue to farm Merlot in three estate vineyards in Alexander Valley, where it grows into grapes that display the deep dark fruit flavors and mature tannins typical of a warmer American Viticultural Area.

THE VINTAGE AND VINEYARD

The 2018 growing season was dry through spring with well below normal precipitation. Cooler weather dominated this vintage with only two short, relatively mild heat spikes through the entire growing season. Summer days were very pleasant in Sonoma County with highs in the 70s and 80s and with August having even warmer temperatures. With everything in balance, we harvested September 20 through October 11.

TASTING

Our 2018 Sonoma County Special Select Merlot is lush with notes of blackberry, fig compote and cassis. Medium bodied with soft tannins, this wine boasts toasty oak and spice on the mid-palate punctuated by a full and lively finish. These luscious dark fruit and toasty flavors are enhanced by aging in French oak barrels. Enjoy this soft and elegant Merlot with grilled pork chops and cherry reduction, lavender crusted lamb shanks or creamy polenta with a short rib ragu.

Committed to Community Since 1959

©2021 Rodney Strong Vineyards, Healdsburg, CA