



Arietta Merlot Hudson Vineyards 2015

Notes from Winemaker Andy Erickson: *The Arietta Merlot Hudson Vineyards 2015 is a testament to the power of site. The vines, planted more than 30 years ago by Lee Hudson on his now-storied property in Carneros, are firmly established, mature, and able to withstand even the most challenging conditions as the drought of 2015. The clay-rich soils allowed the vines to extract what water was available to them throughout the growing season. The cool temperatures in that southern-most part of the valley, near the San Pablo Bay, allow the grapes to spend ample time on the vine, reaching full physiological ripeness.*

This youthful offering of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc from Hudson Vineyards is deep, dark, and at the same time bright and aromatic. From the glass, we find notes of red cherry, slate, flint, and caramel. On the palate, the wine is compact, clean and well defined, the red fruit character giving way to notes of nutmeg and burning embers. With time in the glass, and certainly with bottle age, the wine will open up and become more complex, broad, and expressive.

Blend: 93% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc

Fruit Sources: 100% Hudson Vineyard, Carneros

Elevage: Aged 22 months in French oak barrels, 69% new

Production: 206 cases