

Blankiet Estate, 2016 Rive Droite, Paradise Hills Vineyard. Yountville, Napa Valley

The 2016 “Rive Droite” is made from predominately Merlot with a touch of Cabernet Franc, and it is a total beauty that exudes striking class and refinement. It instantly begins to impress with its stunning aromatics of red and dark currants woven together with fresh spring florals, spices, licorice, herbs, and tobacco to form the gorgeous, perfumed nose. On the palate, this is all about sheer elegance and structure, as the pure dark fruits are wound tightly with beautifully polished tannins. It goes on to display incredible precision and balance with gorgeous underlying acidity, adding a lovely sense of freshness as it leads up to the incredibly long finish. The 2016 will require some significant cellaring before it hits its stride, but that being said, it is one of the finest and most sophisticated Merlots being made in all of Napa, and it possesses all the characteristics to age gracefully for decades to come. **100 points**