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2014 MERLOT

San Luis Obispo County, California

VINEYARDS	Vintage Cowboy Winery was inspired by our family heritage of cowboys, western lifestyle, and our love for ranching in San Luis Obispo County. We believe in cowboy values and keeping the western way of life alive. Vintage Cowboy is a family owned and operated winery.
	For five generations the Arnold family has lived and worked on the original ranch land in San Luis Obispo County, CA, raising beef cattle, horses, and farming a variety of crops. We planted our 32 acre vineyard in 1995. The vineyard sits beneath the Santa Lucia Mountain Range about 14 miles from the Pacific ocean where it benefits from the coastal influence coming through the mountain passes. Our terrior is roughly 10 miles from the Edna Valley AVA and about 35 miles Southeast of the Paso Robles AVA which creates an extreme temperature fluctuation during the growing season resulting in uniquely flavorful wines.
GROWING SEASON	The 2014 growing season was relatively uneventful, with a dry, mild winter and vines got off to an early start in Spring. Even though the harvest was early, bud break was even earlier, which gave the grapes more hang time than in 2013. Drought conditions were bittersweet for us—we had very small berries making concentrated wines but we had very low yields.
WINEMAKER'S NOTES	Rich aromas of plum, clove and red ripe apple are dominant to this Merlot. Hints of Bing cherries, nutmeg and vanilla pair well with the sweet tannins and a soft round finish. We aged this wine for 24 months to give it more structure which truly paid off.
APPELLATION	San Luis Obispo County, Ca
HARVEST DATE	09.06.14
AVERAGE BRIX AT HARVEST	26.5°
FERMENTATION/BARREL AGING	Aged For 24 Months In neutral oak. (30% New French Oak)
ALCOHOL	14.8%

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