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Merlot

Appellation: California (100% Paso Robles)

Varietal: 82% Merlot, 13% Cabernet & 5% Petit Verdot

Vintage: 2017

Alcohol: 13.5% **TA:** 5.6 g/L **pH:** 3.77

Oak Regimen: 14 months in French and American neutral oak barrels

Winemaker Notes: The stars aligned in 2017 allowing Adam to source some incredible Merlot from the famed Margarita Vineyard in Paso Robles. Cooler than much of the region, the resulting wine is deep, and pleasingly structured.

Tasting Notes: Find bittersweet chocolate-covered cherry on the nose with the slightest hint of dried herbs. The palate is very structured with plum and Emperor cherry flavors suspended on a delicate acid platform. Good tannin structure shows up towards the back of the palate. It's an awfully serious wine, especially for the price.

Pair it with pork chops, Brussel sprouts sautéed with bacon crumbles in olive oil or a grilled pizza with arugula, sundried tomatoes, roasted garlic and goat cheese.

Award winning winemaker Adam LaZarre started Cycles Gladiator in 2005. LaZarre's philosophy: "I love producing really great wines that taste two to three times the price & knowing that every night someone is enjoying my wine."



14 & Counting

Since 2005, Adam's Cycles Gladiator wines have been rated Best Buy Fourteen times by WE



Quotes from Matt Kettmann

Central and South Coast Editor, Wine Enthusiast

November 2015: "This twist-top wine by Adam Lazarre is popular for good reason..."

July 2016: "There's excitement about the return of this rather iconic bargain brand to the market, and this bottling packs the goods..."

November 2016: "This wine and the entire brand often punch above their weight..."