APPELLATION
Grapes for the Folie à Deux 2016 Merlot are hand-picked from a selection of prime vineyards in the cooler parts of Alexander Valley. Nestled in northern Sonoma County, Alexander Valley AVA stretches 22 miles from Healdsburg to Cloverdale, following the meandering course of the Russian River. Along its heavily graveled bench lands and foothills lie some of California’s supreme Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards, which benefit from the region’s warm daytime temperatures, marine-cooled evenings and well-drained, volcanic hillside soils.

GROWING SEASON
2016 was a phenomenal vintage for Sonoma County. Harvest began slightly earlier after more welcomed winter rain than previous years. The pace quickly sped up towards the end of August and throughout September as many varieties ripened at the same time. Fruit quality was exceptional, achieving ample ripeness on every metric.

WINEMAKING
Following a 10-14 day maceration period, the lots are aged for 18 months in a combination of French and American oak barrels. This wine is bright and varietally expressive.

TASTING NOTES
The Folie à Deux 2016 Alexander Valley Merlot has bright, enticing dark berry, blueberry and plum notes with dried tea characteristics and hints of graphite on the nose. A lavish layer of velvety tannins and firm, persistent acidity coats the mouth. The cherry, black raspberry and vanilla oak flavors are concentrated and focused boasting a firm, yet plush, mocha finish. The Folie à Deux 2016 Alexander Valley Merlot is inviting with balanced acidity, making it a perfect complement to most meat dishes, such as Mediterranean lamb burgers or a slow cooked roast beef.