



2022 Napa Valley MERLOT

Since producing our first vintage of Merlot in 1983, we've been committed to making the best possible expression of the variety. Understanding that site selection and farming are key to exceptional Merlot, in 2014 we shifted our focus for sourcing to the Napa side of Carneros which we believe produces consistently high-quality wines from this noble grape.

VINEYARDS

Our Merlot is grown in estate-owned and grower-partner vineyards on the Napa side of Carneros, where the clay soils are similar to those of Bordeaux's right bank. The cool climate allows the thin-skinned grapes to gradually develop flavor and tannins while retaining natural acidity.

WINEGROWING

2022 was a warm year in Napa Valley, but Carneros, home to our Merlot vineyards, is cooled by its proximity to the San Pablo Bay which helped moderate temperatures through the growing season. As such, both phenolic and sugar ripeness reached their peak at the same time, resulting in the perfect combination of ripe fruit flavors, tannins, and acidity. Sustainable farming practices throughout the growing season were tailored to each block with the assistance of aerial photos produced using NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) technology. The fruit was handpicked at dawn and sorted in the vineyard.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were carefully destemmed and optically sorted to ensure only perfect fruit made it into the wine. A cold soak extracted color and flavor before a combination of tank and barrel fermentation was used to provide a richer, more textured palate. The wine was gently basket-pressed before being racked to French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and aging.

TASTING NOTES

Intense red plum, dried cranberry, and black cherry meet hints of mint on the nose. The palate is bursting with blackberry and warm pie crust flavors which extend through the rich mouthfeel and on to the long finish. Fine tannins are supported by a bright acidity in each beautifully balanced sip.

FOOD PAIRINGS

Our favorite Joy of Cooking® pairings* for this wine include Italian Meatballs, Shredded Pulled Pork, and Braised Lamb Shanks. **Recipes for pairing may be found on Rombauer.com.*

RELEASE DATE	September 2024
APPELLATION	Napa Valley
VARIETAL COMPOSITION	81% Merlot 12% Petit Verdot 7% Cabernet Sauvignon
HARVESTED	Sept. 12th - Sept. 30th 2022
AVG BRIX AT HARVEST	26.5
COOPERAGE	17 months in French oak (35% new)
ALCOHOL	14.8%

