



2021 Napa Valley Merlot

- Estate-grown, CCOF Certified fruit. Native yeast fermentation, 25% new French oak (Bousset).
- Italian clone of Merlot, planted to bring earthiness to balance the rich fruit from the terroir.
- The pH is 3.65, the TA is 5.8 g/l, and the alcohol is 14.0%. 98 cases produced.

This Merlot is a blend of two vineyards: our home Matthiasson Vineyard and the Linda Vista Vineyard. We planted both blocks some years back, and they are on the same soil less than a quarter mile apart. For this reason the fruit was picked on the same day and co-fermented.

The fruit was fermented in a small tank with a combination of hand punch downs and pump overs two to three times a day, depending on the rate of extraction. The wine was aged in one new French oak Bousset barrel, and three older neutral barrels. The wine was bottled after 20 months of elevage.

The wine has the richness and aromatic profile of Merlot, with impeccable balance and elegance. The Italian clone of Merlot (from Rauschedo) brings an earthy and savory character that balances the natural fruity richness that can define Napa Valley Merlot.

The vineyards were planted with large crossarms that create a pergola-like effect to keep the fruit temperature cool and preserve the complexity that elevates Merlot, when planted on the right soil, to the heights of which it is capable.