



2022 Napa Valley Merlot, Cressida Vineyard

Merlot is the most underrated variety in the wine world. But it absolutely must be planted in the right soil. When the terroir is right, it sings, it soars, it surprises. And it provides wines with the perfect balance of richness and elegance.

Our estate Cressida Vineyard wowed us with the Merlot, so we decided to bottle it as a single vineyard wine. It has explosive flavors of black cherry, plum, and savory herbal qualities. The velvety mouthfeel is framed by fine tannins and bright acidity. And the juicy finish draws you back.

The blend is 94% Merlot with 6% Cabernet Sauvignon from the same vineyard. The small percentage of Cabernet adds a touch of structure and highlights the lifted herbal notes. The wine spent the first year of elevage in 225-liter barrels with 20% new French oak. The second year was in a 2,000-liter Stockinger foudre to maintain the focus and freshness of the wine.

The pH is 3.54, the TA is 6.5 g/l, and the alcohol is 13.0%. 354 cases produced.

The Vineyard

The Cressida Vineyard is planted along the spine of a ridgetop in the upper section of Los Carneros, overlooking the Bay, with the San Francisco skyline clearly visible across the water. It receives the perfect balance of warm sun and cooling bay winds, straight off the Pacific and through the Golden Gate. The soils are shale from an ancient inland sea, which lends a distinct minerality to the wines. The vineyard forms the Southern tip of the Mayacamas Mountains. Raptors hover overhead, riding the winds thrust up as the Bay breezes meet the Cressida hillside.