



#### TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

VARIETALS: 87% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

ALCOHOL: 14.5% by vol.

PH: 3.71

TA: 5.8 g/L

AGING: 19 months in 19% new French oak

NAPA VALLEY

Raymond

## MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY RESERVE

2019

### 2019 VINTAGE

Heavy spring rains enriched the soils and delayed bud break by a few weeks. A heat spike in June, followed by warm weather, brought even veraison throughout the vineyards. A cooling trend and touch of rain in mid-September created ideal conditions for the 2019 harvest which is considered a near-perfect vintage.

### CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

The grapes for this 2019 Napa Valley Reserve Merlot were harvested between September 24 and October 19 from seven vineyards across Napa Valley including Youtnville and Oak Knoll, which adds texture to the wine, while the fruit from St. Helena and Calistoga impart a richness and brightness. The grapes went through extended maceration before aging for 19 months in 19% new French oak before being bottled unfiltered.

### WINE PROFILE

A dark purple in the glass, aromas of black cherry and blueberry compote greet the nose. Flavors of mocha, chocolate and spice spread across the plush palate with suggestions of menthol and spice cake. Full-bodied with juicy tannins, the finish has a nice little spice to it.

92 points

JAMES SUCKLING  
2019 VINTAGE

90 points

VINOUS  
2018 VINTAGE

90 points

WINE SPECTATOR  
2017 VINTAGE

90 points

WINE ENTHUSIAST  
2016 VINTAGE

90 points

WINE ADVOCATE  
2014 VINTAGE