



NAPA VALLEY

Raymond

MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY RESERVE

2020

2020 VINTAGE

2020 kicked off with ideal growing conditions. Mild temperatures led to evenly developed clusters and an early budbreak was followed by a warm to hot summer. Low winter rains resulted in smaller berries with concentrated flavors. Harvest started in early August and all things pointed to normal yields and exceptional fruit quality.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

The grapes for this 2020 Napa Valley Reserve Merlot were harvested between September 17 and October 8 from ten vineyards across Napa Valley from Oak Knoll to Calistoga. Fruit from these varying locations add texture to the wine, as well as a richness and brightness. The grapes went through extended maceration before aging for 19 months in 19% new French oak, primarily Demptos, Saury and Ermitage barrels, before being bottled unfiltered on July 21, 2022.

WINE PROFILE

This wine is a dark ruby red in color and features aromas of black cherry, chocolate, and mint. On the palate, this wine is velvety and soft in texture with flavors of plum, blackberry and ripe dark cherries. A hint of cocoa powder and vanilla, with a touch of cedar, highlight the juicy tannins and plush finish of this luxurious Merlot.

TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

VARIETALS: 86% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Petit Verdot

ALCOHOL: 14.5% by vol.

PH: 3.69

TA: 6.4 g/L

AGING: 19 months in 19% new French oak

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