



TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

VARIETALS: 85% Merlot, 7% Petite Sirah, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Malbec

ALCOHOL: 14.5% by vol.

PH: 3.60

TA: 6.4 g/L

AGING: 19 months in 23% new French oak

NAPA VALLEY

Raymond

MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY RESERVE

2021

2021 VINTAGE

The season started off with little rain leading to an early budbreak which saw evenly developed clusters and small berries packed full of flavor. A heat spike in June was followed by a cooler July and August which slowed ripening resulting in good acid retention. Overall, 2021 saw lower yields with intensely flavored and exceptional fruit.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

This 2021 Merlot is a blend of 10 vineyards across six sub-AVAs within Napa. Cooler appellations and vineyard sites with heavier soils were sought out to produce a powerful Merlot. The grapes were harvested between September 8 and October 11 and were optically sorted before undergoing extended maceration and were on their skins for an average of 35 days. The wine was aged in 23% new French oak barrels from Seguin Moreau, Taransaud and Demptos before being bottled unfiltered on August 20, 2023.

WINE PROFILE

Dark fruit aromas of black plum, blackberry and black cherry greet the nose with nuances of rose petal. The medium to full-bodied palate has a silky texture with a lovely depth and fresh fruit flavors layered with notes of chocolate, espresso, and spice cake. This is a rich, ripe, and round wine with good concentration and smooth finish.

91 points

WINE ENTHUSIAST
2020 VINTAGE

92 points

JAMES SUCKLING
2019 VINTAGE

90 points

VINOUS
2018 VINTAGE

90 points

WINE SPECTATOR
2017 VINTAGE

90 points

WINE ENTHUSIAST
2016 VINTAGE