



TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

VARIETALS: 100% Merlot

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

PH: 3.57

TA: 6.3 g/L

AGING: 19 months in 23%
new French oak

N A P A VALLEY

Raymond

MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY RESERVE

2023

2023 VINTAGE

The 2023 growing season produced exceptional fruit with remarkable balance and depth. A wet winter replenished soils across Napa Valley, setting the stage for a long, even growing cycle. Spring brought mild, cooler conditions with a steady bud break, while the extended, temperate summer allowed for gradual ripening and strong phenolic development. Harvest began in early October under ideal conditions, with moderate weather preserving freshness while allowing flavors to fully develop. The resulting wines show vibrant aromatics, refined structure, and polished tannins with a seamless, elegant finish.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

The 2023 Merlot is a thoughtfully composed blend sourced from five vineyards, harvested between October 5 and October 18. The majority of the fruit comes from the cooler, fog-influenced regions of Carneros and Oak Knoll, where moderate temperatures allow the grapes to remain cool and plump, encouraging slow, even phenolic ripening and the development of refined structure and depth. A small portion from Oakville brings added lift and brightness to the aromatics, enhancing the wine's juiciness and overall vibrancy.

Following harvest, all lots underwent extended maceration, spending an average of 29 days on their skins to build richness, texture, and complexity. The wine was then aged for 19 months in French oak barrels, with 23% new oak from Seguin Moreau and Ermitage, and the balance in once- and twice-used barrels, allowing for integration without overpowering the fruit. The wine was bottled on September 11, 2025, and produced in a limited quantity of 1,120 cases.

WINE PROFILE

The interplay of cooler, fog-influenced vineyards and a touch of warmer Oakville fruit creates a Merlot of balance, vibrancy, and finesse. Aromas of ripe plum and black cherry unfold alongside hints of violet, cocoa, and a touch of sweet baking spice, framed by subtle notes of cedar and vanilla from well-integrated oak. The medium to full-bodied palate is plush and silky, with layered dark fruit flavors complemented by nuances of mocha and espresso. The finish is long and polished, with lingering notes of dark chocolate, spice, and a refined freshness that reflects its Napa Valley origins.

94 points

TASTING PANEL
2022 VINTAGE

93 points

TASTING PANEL
2022 VINTAGE

92 points

WINE ENTHUSIAST
2021 VINTAGE

91 points

WINE ENTHUSIAST
2020 VINTAGE

92 points

JAMES SUCKLING
2019 VINTAGE

90 points

VINOUS
2018 VINTAGE