



slow
wine 



Larkmead Vineyards

2025 Slow Wine Guide



Quietly pursuing what matters by caring for the land and people who live and work upon it.

People

Second-generation vintner and president Kate Solari Baker leads this historic estate, which buzzes with biodiversity. Avery Heelan, who was promoted to winemaker in 2021, guided the estate to organic certification in 2023. Now in her fifth vintage, Heelan's shift to using grape selection beyond a single vineyard block and soil type has paid off. The 2022 vintage (which required more tannin management) shows infinite finesse and drinkability.

Vineyards

Vineyard manager Nabor Camarena and consulting viticulturist Kelly Maher farm the site, which has seven soil profiles as well as both alluvial and colluvial fans. Cabernet Sauvignon makes up for 66% of the plantings. A research vineyard to study climate resilient varieties grows Aglianico, Charbono, Chenin Blanc, Petite Sirah, Syrah/Shiraz, Tempranillo, and Zinfandel.

Wines

Heelan's approach is that of an artist—"Each color, or component from our vineyard, offers just a glimpse. Together, they create the whole painting."



2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Cabernet Franc (18%) is in the blend. Aged 20 months in 64% new French oak, brings savor and spiced red and black fruits to the fore. Balanced and suave.

2022 Solari Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Aged 22 months in 81% new French oak, vanilla, and caramel notes frame lush cassis and rich dark plum in a robust and balanced expression.

2022 Firebelle Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Old vine Merlot takes center stage in a blend with Cabernet Sauvignon (23%). Aged 22 months in 65% new French oak. Cherry, black tea, and chocolate are forward with cedar and leather trailing.